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LIGHT



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NOVEMBER 1, 1931



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—See Page 11—

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Use your head or—some day—you, too, may be among those who SEE only through their fingers.

LIGHT

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To further acquaint sighted people with the ambitions and success of the blind, and enlist aid in meeting their problem of securing good reading matter.

Published Eight Times a Year by Braille Institute of America, Inc.
739 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California
Three Dollars a Year

James H. Collins, Editor

J. Robert Atkinson, Vice-President and Manager

Jerry M. Nesbitt, Business Mgr.

VOL. 3

NOVEMBER 1, 1931

NO. 1

Three Cents Worth of Reading

By JAMES H. COLLINS

PICTURE to yourself a city as large as Los Angeles, with nearly 1,500,000 people. And then, at some distance, a village with less than 1,500 inhabitants.

The big city is a happy hunting ground for magazine subscription agents and booksellers, because its people can buy thousands of copies of any publication they like.

But salesmen of the printed word do not visit the village, because its people are all blind, and not profitable customers.

In the city, 20,000 words of reading can be bought for as little as a cent—the "Saturday Evening Post" with 160 pages contains about 100,000 words, and its editions of 3,000,000, and its advertising, make that possible.

But Braille books for the blind villagers are printed in editions of maybe 100 copies, and a novel costs about one cent for 100 words! This editorial contains about 300 words—three cents worth of reading when the blind have to buy it.

* * *

This village is to be found wher-

ever you live, for in the United States, with 122,000,000 people, there are about 120,000 blind persons.

Cheap reading matter is denied the blind—there are not enough of them to make it pay commercially. Government supports the printing of Braille school books, and various organizations publish books on a philanthropic basis.

The Braille Institute of America, in Los Angeles, publishes Braille books and magazines for the adult blind, with special attention to what they themselves want to read. Thus, the blind have the standing of customers. Difference in cost between what the blind are asked to pay, and publishing expenses, are met by contributions. The institution is run on a non-profit basis. It was established, and is managed by a blind man.

LIGHT will appear eight times a year, to explain the reading problems of the blind to sighted people.

LIGHT is supported by advertisers. So, every subscription of three dollars will be converted into a subscription to a Braille magazine for a blind person who needs it.

Leading the Blind Into Life Insurance

**One Man's Efforts Provided Braille Insurance Books,
and Placed Blind Agents with Many Companies**

By JULIUS JONAS

Pioneer Blind Agent, New York Life Insurance Company, New York City

IF YOU have ever sold anything, and brought a customer to the point of asking, "Well, how much will this cost me?" you fully understand the importance of being able to give the exact price, instantly.

If you have ever seen a life insurance rate book, with its premiums on many different kinds of policies at different ages, you know that it is necessary for the salesman to master those rates until he has them at the tip of his tongue.

Now, imagine a fellow beginning life insurance at fifty, less than two years after he had lost his sight by accident—and having no rate book that he could study!

That was my situation, ten years ago. I was forty-eight when I lost my sight, in July, 1920. Up to that time, I had been sales director for a large corporation, with 400 men under me, and drawing \$500 a week. Blindness found me with \$500 cash and \$10,000 debts. So it was necessary to do something.

"Do you wish to learn how to make mops—or brooms?" they asked at an institution for aiding the blind—and that was a worse shot than the loss of sight.

Life insurance seemed to be a business in which I could do something. I knew a little about it, and persuaded Joseph Schirmer, a New York supervisor of the New York Life Insurance Company, to give me a chance. "The poor blind guy! How does he expect to make the grade?" I overheard a salesman saying in the office, as I walked out.

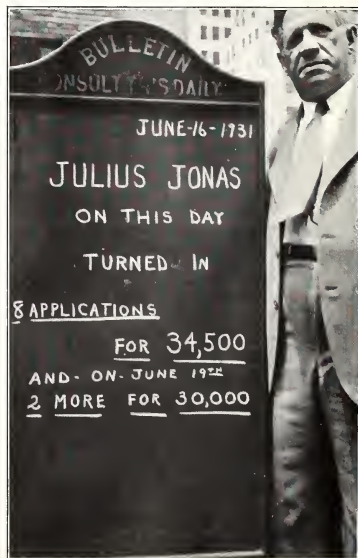
In May, 1922, I started with a guide to lead me to prospects, and the first six months were mighty hard. But by November I was making \$150 a week, and in December wrote twelve policies for \$42,000, leading that office. So much for the poor blind guy! Since then, I have qualified

every year for our \$200,000 club, writing that much business or more yearly.

* * *

Blind institutions had nothing that would help a man learn such a business—no books in Braille on salesmanship, insurance or business. A sighted man can buy any number of books, and read business journals.

The lack of a rate book in Braille was particularly hard. I asked if one could be made up, but was told by the blind societies that they had no money for such a book. Thrown upon my own resources,



Julius Jonas and His Record

I managed to make a book for my own use, on a Braille typewriter. And the experience led me to resolve to do something toward smoothing the path of other men and women who, like myself, would aspire to a business career even after losing sight.

* * *

I raised \$60 toward printing a Braille rate book, but was told that it would not begin to cover the cost of printing. But Mr. Atkinson, of the Braille Institute, away out in Los Angeles, said nothing about costs. "Send on your copy," he wrote, and 100 rate books were printed for \$59—though I have since learned that the actual cost was twice as much.

Later, I had books on life insurance put into Braille. But the book that a sighted person buys for two or three dollars costs maybe ten times as much in Braille.

It has been said that adults usually lose their sight around fifty, and so do not need many books. But the New York Life Insurance Company has, today, about sixty blind agents, partly through my efforts in getting books, and some of them are big producers. More than thirty other life insurance companies have opened the door to blind agents.

* * *

Not all sightless people are fitted for such work, of course. Blindness comes to men and women in mechanical trades as well as selling, and the professions, and business. For the adult blind, who must make this terrific adjustment in mid-career, I believe that following the work you have been accustomed to is best, as near as it can be followed.

More than ever, it is necessary to utilize what you already know, and that is hard only to the extent that you have to change the attitude of sighted people toward you. If you have sold goods, it is possible to readjust your knowledge to sightless conditions. But readjusting the sighted people who say, "The poor blind guy!" is harder.

Hardest of all, is the lack of printed matter on business. Never, until you lose the ability to read printed business magazines and books, do you realize how much they have meant to you in keeping up with the latest developments. It is not a substitute

HIS TIME IS WORTH FOUR DOLLARS AN HOUR

The value put upon his own time, by Mr. Jonas, is four dollars an hour.

One day he was "tipped off" to an insurance prospect, a young office man about to be married.

"Here, do you know my time is worth three dollars an hour?" asked this young man, seeing he had to deal with a sightless person.

Mr. Jonas made a quick calculation, and laid down a five-dollar bill.

"I never want anything gratis," he said. "Sell me ten minutes."

And in ten minutes he secured an application for a policy on the young man's life. It takes him an average of twenty minutes to present an insurance proposition, because he always goes prepared. He feels that the other fellow is important, but that he is important too. His valuation upon his working time is based on his actual earnings as a life insurance man. And he counts upon devoting three months each year to working for nothing, for the advancement of blind people who, like himself, need training and books to apply their business ability in some field that gives them adequate opportunities.

to have this literature read to you, because, apart from the desire to be independent, and read yourself, much of the material must be studied, and a lot memorized.

Great advances have been made in providing books for the blind since raised letters were invented. The associations for the blind, and the Government, have accomplished much, and deserve all praise.

But my own experience leads me to endorse the Braille Institute of America, in Los Angeles, as an institution which is striking out a new path. Its founder, Mr. J. Robert Atkinson, is blind, and having lost his sight in adult life, understands the needs of the blind who aspire to business.

America is a country in which business has been most highly specialized, and where books and periodicals on business are necessary to one's career. This Institute has undertaken to print material not supplied by other agencies, and is managed from the standpoint of giving the blind, and especially the adult blind, what they have found necessary by hard experience.

Professions For The Blind—Why Not?

As Machinery Abolishes Handicrafts, They Turn to Brain Work, and Train for Mental Tasks

By J. ROBERT ATKINSON

IT must be a terrible thing—the loss of eyesight!" people often say to the writer, when they have been led to think about the problems and viewpoint of the blind, for the first time in their lives.

"Why, no—not at all!" I answer. "The loss is not as bad as the losing."

"What do you mean by that?"

"Physical blindness never had any terror for me," I explain, "because I lost my sight 'in the twinkling of an eye,' and was spared, even for a moment, the awful contemplation of an approaching ordeal. To anticipate the loss of sight for months beforehand, would be the only terror. It might have paralyzed me with fright, and blighted my prospects in life beyond human resuscitation."

I have always looked upon my own blindness, not as an affliction, but as a handicap, to be overcome. When a person realizes that he or she has a handicap, it is possible to set about overcoming it.

Blinded persons—those who lose eyesight, in contrast to the born blind—are often reluctant to admit, at first, that their handicap can be overcome. Inspiring them with ambition is sometimes a difficult task, particularly where sighted persons bewilder them with pity.

But hundreds of blinded men and women have frankly appraised their handicap, and resolutely overcome it, and they will testify that it is little more than a 25 per cent obstacle. And I maintain that 24 per cent of this is the handicap of sighted people, who believe that blindness is a terrible affliction.

* * *

BECAUSE sighted people regard the blind as afflicted, they have been discouraged from undertaking any work but simple handicrafts. And they have been made objects of charity.



J. Robert Atkinson
Harris & Ewing Photo

The progressive blind person wants, first of all, something to do, and training to aid in finding an occupation which will keep mind and body happily employed. Enforced idleness is the worst affliction. Charity is not wanted—it can be a greater evil than blindness itself.

It is a **chance** that is appreciated. The blind person wants to make good, to earn an independent livelihood, to maintain self-respect, and become somebody in the community. He or she wants to bear a share in the burdens and responsibilities of human life, and if given half a chance, will prove his or her ability to the most skeptical.

Blind people are usually skillful in the handicrafts, but the Machine Age is eliminating hand work for them, as well as for sighted persons.

There is nothing in blindness that affects brains. Quite the reverse—blinded persons have to sharpen their wits, and develop concentration and memory.

* * *

As the handicrafts disappear, sighted persons turn to education, and fit themselves for mental work—and so do the blind and blinded.

Out of 50 or more sightless agents of the New York Life Insurance Company, 10 per cent made the \$400,000 or \$200,000 clubs last year.

"The percentage of success among our sightless agents," says Thomas A. Buckner, president of the company, "is higher than it is among those who have their sight, and in my opinion their percentage is higher in intelligence, loyalty, and in service rendered the public."

The New York Life Insurance Company has been a pioneer in the printing of Braille business books and working data, for the training and advancement of blind insurance sales people, and is a splendid example of the changing attitude of American business concerns toward the sightless.

There are hundreds of sightless people who, through perseverance, have won their way to success in the professions, and even become leaders as lawyers, doctors, ministers, actors, lecturers, teachers, authors, editors and statesmen, and in business a sales-people in life and fire insurance, real estate, brokerage and other lines, as well as managers of business enterprises, inventors and the like.

Professions for the blind—why not?

This magazine will endeavor to answer that question by publishing life stories of success by the blind and blinded.

The only blind girl graduate at Oxford, England, is Miss Hazel Winter, who went to that university after winning an open history scholarship. Many of the text books she uses are copied out for her in Braille, by volunteer workers.

Blind Girl Dictaphone Expert

In four years, blind Clorinda Mangee, born sightless, has climbed from the bottom of a San Francisco business concern's dictaphone department, and now stands next to the top.

Miss Mangee was the first blind girl to take up dictaphone work at a business college, and make a specialty of typewriting from wax cylinders recording business correspondence and documents.

She takes dictation from thirteen persons in the organization, says a writer in the San Francisco Chronicle, and this dictation—all on wax cylinders—deals with many different technical matters, because it comes from almost that many different departments.

She has shown that she can use a tabulator, long thought to be impossible for a blind typist. She transcribes as many as ninety-six letters a day, right along. Her success in this work, eminently suited to the blind, has encouraged other sightless persons in training for office work.

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Here Is Our Own Five-Year Plan!

One Million Dollars to Be Raised to Endow and Expand Our Work of Supplying Reading for the Blind

FIVE definite projects are now right ahead for the Braille Institute of America, and at its July meeting, the Board of Trustees took action to assure success. These projects are:

First—To finance the publication of Funk & Wagnalls' Desk Standard Dictionary in Braille, in from 25 to 30 volumes, and subsidize its sale to the blind at a price in keeping with that at which sighted persons can buy the printed book. Apart from a condensed 4 volume word-book, limited in definitions and other ways, no English dictionary has ever been printed for the blind, in the Braille system universally used. This is one of the greatest needs of sightless students and readers.

Second—To increase the circulation among the blind of the two Braille magazines, "The Braille Mirror" and "March of Events," by subsidizing the printing costs, and furnishing these magazines free to blind readers who cannot afford to pay even the moderate subscription price.

Third—To publish, as soon as possible, a monthly magazine for blind women, giving them the household information available to sighted people in printed household magazines, and at a reasonable subscription price.

Fourth—To publish each year several good Braille books, furnishing them free to libraries throughout the nation, and with special attention to books that the blind themselves want to read.

Fifth—To greatly increase our Braille music publishing activities, for supplying late popular music to blind professional musicians, sacred and classical music for blind students who plan and are following musical careers.

* * *

TO finance this program, the Board of Trustees have laid out a Five-Year Program for the raising of a One Million Dollar Endowment Fund.

In going to the public, asking for money, these definite objectives will be explained, and those making contributions and endowments can see what their funds will accomplish.

Of this money, Six Hundred Thousand Dollars will be used to create a Permanent Endowment Fund. It will be placed in trust, with a large financial institution of Los Angeles, which will administer it for the Braille Institute. The income from this fund will be used to subsidize the publication of literature for the blind.

Purposes for which the income will be used are:

1. Publication of books for the blind for distribution to libraries, and blind purchasers, and the needy blind. 2. Subsidizing the publication of Braille magazines to keep blind readers informed of current events. 3. Assisting the Braille Bible Society in furnishing Braille Bibles to the blind, free or at reasonable prices. 4. Meeting the cost of making Braille printing plates for an unabridged desk size English dictionary.

* * *

JUST the other day, the Braille Institute's Five-Year One Million Dollar Endowment Fund received the enthusiastic endorsement of the Los Angeles City Department of Social Service. As the name indicates, this is an official bureau, which supervises all fund-raising activities in the city, approving only those which can show necessary and worthy programs, and also guarantee that a just proportion of any funds raised will be applied to the actual work—not wasted in commissions, or unnecessary expenses of either finance or management. Three months were given to the investigation of the Braille Institute, by Major W. J. Fitzmaurice, of that department, and all details of past management were expertly studied, as well as our Endowment Fund program and plan. The endorsement which has been given us means that we go before the public with sound standing as a non profit organization, seeking finances for a great public work.

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Uncle Sam Sends a "Backlog"

THE other day, Uncle Sam sent us a nice "backlog" of printing, when he ordered five books for the Library of Congress. They are:

The Nemesis of American Business, by Stuart Chase, 60 copies.

English Synonyms, Antonyms and Prepositions, by James C. Fernald, 60 copies.

The Human Habitat, by Ellsworth Huntington, 50 copies.

The Causes of the War of Independence, by Claude H. Van Tyne, 50 copies.

Les Misérables, by Victor Hugo, 50 copies.

This order was secured by lowest bid, and it puts us back on full time for the winter—we have been running five days a week. In money, it amounts to approximately \$7,000, and the commercial value of the books will be about \$15,000.

More than 1,700 separate volumes are called for, because the big novel "Les Misérables" runs to 16 volumes in Braille, and about 6,698 embossed plates will be made for printing all five books.

This order is handled by the Universal Braille Press, now employing 36 persons, some of whom are blind. While not the first United States Government contract

we have taken, it testifies to the practical, technical and business character of our printing department. The Universal Braille Press does every kind of commercial printing for blind readers—no ink printing for sighted persons. It is a non-profit concern, like the Braille Institute of America, because whatever profit may be made on its work is turned over to the Institute, to finance the publication of more books and magazines for the blind.

Preston, England, January 15, 1931.

Dear Sir:

I would just like to say how very much I appreciate the Braille Mirror which you so kindly send to me. Thanking you once again I am,

Yours sincerely,
Margaret Allen.

Marshall, Illinois, January 4, 1931.

Dear Sir:

Received the sample copy of the Braille Mirror and the same with great appreciation. I am deeply interested in every movement that is advanced to provide good wholesome literature for the blind. I think that there should be a number of papers like the Braille Mirror.

Yours sincerely,
John H. Carpenter.



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Bibles For The Blind

Demand Steadily Increases

CAN you imagine a Bible which forms 21 large volumes each 13 inches by 14 inches in size and varying in thickness, weighing about 114 pounds? If so you have a mental picture of a blind person's Bible printed in the Braille system.

And yet, this may be considered small by blind readers, compared with the Bible issued in one of the earlier systems of printing for the blind, bound in 58 volumes!

In recent years the blind reader's Bible has undergone a reduction in volume to 42 pounds. This reduction has been effected through the art of printing on both sides of the paper, saving in volume, weight and cost of from 30% to 40%.

The method is called two-side printing, or "interpointing," because the space between dots on the reverse side of the paper is utilized.

In 1917-18, just 300 years from the beginning of experimentation in methods to enable the blind to read, the Braille system, slightly modified and simplified, to meet the need of the average reader, was officially adopted in America as the standard system of printing for the blind throughout the English reading world. This revision of the Braille system, and its standardization, made the republication of the Bible imperative, as it immediately became the only system taught in American elementary schools; to the civilian adult blind; and to the blinded veterans of the World War.

J. Robert Atkinson, founder and manager of the Universal Braille Press in Los Angeles, himself a blind reader, with the aid of philanthropic friends laid the foundation for the King James Bible in a practical form. To this Los Angeles institution belongs the distinction of having published the first Bible in the universal system.

In recent years the work of supplying Braille Bibles to the blind has been greatly facilitated through the creation in 1925 of the Braille Bible Society, Inc., which took over the Bible activity of the Uni-

versal Braille Press.

It is the object of the Society to assist the blind to obtain the complete Bible in Braille free, or at prices within their reach. Undenominational and non-sectarian in policy, the Society's beneficiaries are confined to no creed. The Braille King James Bible forms 21 volumes 11 inches by 11 inches each. The work is printed on both sides of the paper and bound in durable black fabrikoid. In a panel on the front cover appears the title in Braille, a great convenience to blind students. Other simple innovations render this Bible universally adaptable for both reference study and general use. One of these is the printing of the verse number at the end of the Braille line wherein the verse appears. Another innovation is the printing of the running head on the bottom line of the page instead of the top.

Blind ministers, as well as students, have acclaimed this Bible as especially adapted to their needs.

Since the first Braille Bible was produced in 1923 the Society has distributed among the blind all over the world 10,153 volumes. Of this number 478 volumes were distributed entirely free.

The average cost of producing and distributing this Bible for the years 1929 and 1930 was \$142.59 per Bible of 21 volumes. The average price received from Bibles distributed during that period was \$45.57 each. Thus the net deficiency on every Bible distributed during that period was \$97.02 per Bible.

Obviously the Society must look to the Christian churches of the world, and to religious-minded people for financial assistance by which to sustain the deficiency continuously arising from an ever increasing demand for Braille Bibles, sold at \$1 a volume, or \$21 for the complete Bible. Contributions to this worthy cause should be addressed to Braille Bible Society, Inc., 739 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, Calif.

The Society invites the public to communicate the names of blind readers who are desirous of procuring Braille Bibles free, or at the nominal price asked.

A Word of Thanks

THIS is Vol. 3 of our little magazine, **LIGHT**. The first volume appeared in May, 1927, and the second in April, 1931, as a publication of the Braille Bible Society, Inc., of Los Angeles, under the editorship of J. Robert Atkinson.

Now, the Braille Bible Society has kindly transferred ownership in the magazine, and the name **LIGHT**, to the Braille Institute of America, retaining one page in each issue upon which to publish information about the work of making available the King James version of the Bible in Braille.

The trustees of the Braille Institute wish to express their appreciation and thanks to the Braille Bible Institute for this action, and we of the **LIGHT** editorial staff will endeavor to make this little magazine worthy of both institutions, in its new dress, and its reader interest, and its furtherance of the whole work for the blind. Our purpose is to so present the ambitions and successes of the blind, that sighted people will understand their reading problems.

Ten Millions For British Blind

England has less than half the blind population of the United States, yet has provided two endowments of five million dollars each to aid its sightless people.

From 1879 to the close of the World War, only a quarter-million dollars was appropriated by Uncle Sam for the same purpose, and this yielded only ten thousand dollars a year for the printing of Braille books. The war blind led to a further appropriation of one and a half millions, yielding seventy-five thousand dollars a year, for Braille books for the blind of school age.

In 1931, Congress appropriated the equivalent of two and a half millions, yielding one hundred thousand dollars a year, to be spent by the Library of Congress for the advancement of the adult blind.

On the same scale as the British appropriations, this would be eight times as large!

A broad interest in books usually means, for the blind as well as sighted people, a broad interest in life.

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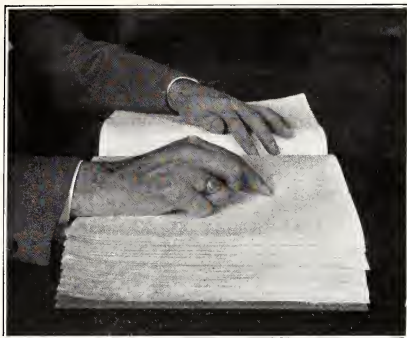
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• NOTE—Our laboratories and full-time instructors meet the requirements of the California State Board which went into effect July 1.



What You Get For Your Three-Dollar Subscription To This Magazine, "Light"

Blind people say that their big handicap is in the misunderstanding of sighted people!

LIGHT is a new magazine for sighted people, to aid in understanding the blind. A success magazine about the blind, if you please!

Cheerful, constructive—no "sob stuff." LIGHT is published eight times a year, advertising pays the cost, the subscription is Three Dollars a year.

Your subscription begins to remove some of the handicap right away, because you will meet blind people, just as they are, in these pages.

On top of that, your money will immediately buy a free subscription to "The March of Events" or "The Braille Mirror" for a blind reader who needs such magazines.

Radio has been a wonderful thing for the blind, but their chief reliance, like your own, is reading. How else can they fit themselves for the world, or keep up with it?

The blind person who is given current reading matter soon becomes a living asset to the community, instead of a liability.

Therefore, Three Dollars sent us for LIGHT, one year, will be a paying investment in human life, and in a new outlook upon the world, and in self-help and aroused ambition for some blind person.

JUST FILL OUT AND MAIL THE COUPON BELOW

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Why the Blind Need More Braille Music

**This Calling Has Advantages for the Sightless
... But They Must Have Late Scores for Study**

SHEET music for the blind, the latest song-hits and dance tunes, right off the press as promptly as the newest popular music for sighted people—a strange objective?

Not at all! It is one of the enlargements of Braille Institute activities planned for the near future, along with Braille texts of classical music.

And when this objective is realized, Anna Dixon will be happy. Because, ever since she came to the Braille Institute, several years ago, she has read proof on all music published, and knows what is available in raised-letter, as well as how much more music is badly needed.

"Ever since childhood, I've been a lover of music," says Miss Dixon, "and most of all I like classic music and the symphony orchestra. Here is one never-failing interest for the blind, if they are gifted with a musical ear. And many blind persons go further than an interest as listeners, and become performers for their own pleasure and development, or to earn a livelihood as professional musicians. It is a field in which they have practically no handicap in competition with sighted musicians.

"Small as our music publishing activities are now, principally hymns and songs, we know of numerous blind men and women over the nation who fill positions as organists, instrumentalists and soloists. And we know that they are in need of the latest music, in Braille, to enable them to increase their earning capacity. And then, there are dozens and dozens of young people who want to follow music as a career, and need the scores to study. Since radio came, the public interest in music has grown very fast, and there is more and more demand for musicians."

* * *

MISS DIXON is herself a proficient musician, having been educated in voice, piano and violin.

She was born blind in Pueblo, Colorado, and studied at the Colorado State School for the Blind until finishing her sophomore year in High School. In 1924, she came to Los Angeles, and in 1927 was graduated from the Alhambra High School with honors. While there, she won a \$200 scholarship, which was used to continue her musical studies.

For exactly ten years, Miss Dixon has supported herself, and has been one of our most efficient employees for several years. At first, she worked as a bindery girl in the press-room, but as the Universal Braille Press grew, and developed the Braille Institute of America, and our range of publications began to broaden, she took charge of music proof-reading, and has had full charge of that work ever since.

Miss Dixon's method of studying music shows the difficulties under which blind musicians work. It is necessary to read the treble part of a Braille score with one hand, play it on the piano with the other hand, and memorize the notes. Then



Anna Dixon

the bass part is memorized, and the two parts are combined from memory. Sighted musicians can study from the score, and need not memorize except for recitals. The amount of music that a blind person must know "by heart," if interested in the classics, is tremendous.

Braille music is printed with raised staff lines similar to those in printed music, and the notes, with their values, are printed in dot characters, in the positions on the staff where they are to be played.

The blind musician is on an even footing with the sighted singer or instrumentalist, when it comes to the demands of his or her audience.

The fact that a gifted performer may be without sight would, perhaps, if known to the audience at all, win some temporary sympathy, and cause allowances to be made for what sighted people consider a handicap. But this tolerance would not last long. The blind musician is expected to be as good as a sighted one—and blind musicians take pride in trying to be decidedly better!

As a matter of everyday experience, the blind musician performs, and his audi-

ence never suspects that he or she is without eyes. Over the radio, this is not known to the audience, nor in organ playing, or work in an orchestra.

The audience makes no allowance, and the blind musician expects none, and asks none. His and her chief concern is to keep up with popular music of the day, and to be fully acquainted with the classics and semi-classics which require detailed study. The demand of the popular audience is for the newest songs and dance music, rendered with the special touch and tempo that marks the accomplished performer, while in the classics, there must be the finish of performance that comes only with patient study of the scores, bar by bar,

This is the reason for publishing more music in Braille. The great tide of new popular music, ever pouring from "Tin Pan Alley," and the vast repositories of classic music, nearly 200 years of it, almost untouched as far as the needs of blind musicians are concerned, make this special department of the Braille Institute of the utmost practical value to the blind persons it seeks to serve.

Cover illustration shows Senator Gore (left) and Senator Schall, blind Senators, on the Capitol steps, Washington, D. C. Feature story in December issue of "Light."

Among those to whom the Graphic Processes are an open book, the work of the Braille Institute and its subsidiary, the Universal Braille Press, is one of the marvels of the age. • Mr. Atkinson and the members of his staff are to be congratulated upon the masterful way in which they have solved the intricate problems of their craft. • An understanding spirit of co-operation—the desire to help the customer in getting out the type of Printing best suited to his needs—is one of the reasons why The House of Ralston continues to grow and progress. We do all types of general Printing and Color Work.

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The Story of the Braille Institute

How a Blind Man Began Publishing for the Blind, Starting in a Los Angeles Garage

IN 1912, a Montana cowboy lost his sight by accident, almost instantly. He had always been a reader. He had hoped to fit himself for a business career. This complete change in his outlook on life forced him in the direction of his ambition—but in unforeseen ways.

J. Robert Atkinson mastered Braille, and then looked around for books that would help him to a business education.



Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear

He found that Braille books were mostly printed for young people in schools for the blind, ten per cent of the sightless population. No publisher was catering to blind adults as customers, consulting their tastes or wishes. No blind person was selecting books, or publishing magazines

for the blind, to keep them posted on the world's affairs.

Starting in a small way, in a garage back of his Los Angeles home, in 1920, Mr. Atkinson made a beginning with the Universal Braille Press, printing books on machinery partly of his own invention. In this work, he was aided by Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear, splendid philanthropic people, of Brookline, Mass., who had become interested in his efforts, and financed his start with \$10,000 and a guaranteed salary for five years. The Longyears have since passed on to another plane, but their gift and their encouragement live in the Braille Institute.

In 1926, the first secular magazine in the United States for the blind, dealing with current affairs, and carrying advertisements, was launched, with Mr. Atkinson as editor—"The Braille Mirror." Since then, "The March of Events" has been added, in co-operation with the "World's Work," and a Braille magazine for women is projected.

The Universal Braille Press is the only plant west of the Mississippi equipped to print raised-letter books and periodicals on a large scale. It has never been operated for profit.

In 1929, the Braille Institute of America was incorporated, under the laws of California, to more thoroughly organize and endow the production and distribution of reading matter for the blind. This is also a non-profit institution, directed by a strong board of trustees, and with funds safeguarded by a trust arrangement with a large financial institution in Los Angeles. The Braille press is the manufacturing department for the Institute, and also undertakes outside contracts for printing in raised letter.

The story of these institutions is told at greater length in the catalogue of the Braille Institute. We shall be glad to mail a copy to any reader who asks for it.

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FEBRUARY, 1932



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The favorite outdoor sport of a blind man—meet him on Page 4

Contents for February, 1932

Pleased to Meet You!—Editorial 3

Joe Huber—Blind Play-Boy,
by James H. Collins 4

Four Ways By Which the Blind Write,
by J. Robert Atkinson 6

They Need "Pep"—And Call Tom Butler,
Mainly by Tom Butler himself 8

The Five-Year Plan of the Braille Institute . 10

First 100 Years of Raised-Print Bibles . . . 11

Blinded Boy Choses Dramatic Career . . . 12

What's In Our Magazines 13

Recent Books for the Blind 14

Before You Give Money—Read! 15

For a Hard-Time Pal, Gimme a Blind Guy!
by The Subscription Man 16

The Story of the Braille Institute

IN 1912, a Montana cowboy lost his sight by accident, almost instantly. Always a reader, he mastered Braille, and then looked around for books that would help him to a business education. Nobody was publishing such books, nor did the blind have magazines to keep them posted on the world's affairs.

Starting in a garage back of his Los Angeles home, in 1920, J. Robert Atkinson made a beginning with the Universal Braille Press, printing books on machinery partly of his own invention. Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear, philanthropists, aided him financially.

In 1926 he started the first secular Braille magazine in this country, the "Braille Mirror," dealing with current affairs. In 1930 the "March of Events" was added, in co-operation with the "World's Work." These magazines have proved popular with the blind, and others are needed.

In 1929 the Braille Institute of America was incorporated under the laws of California, to finance reading matter for the blind, through an endowment fund, deposited under a trust, with a strong financial institution. The Braille press is now the manufacturing department of the Institute, both being operated on a non-profit basis.

The magazines published by the Braille Institute are read by blind subscribers all over the United States, and by many blind readers in foreign countries as well. The Braille books published by this institution are deposited in libraries over the whole country, and also other lands.

So the work of the Braille Institute of America is broadly national, and international, in the interests of blind persons everywhere, and is non-sectarian, and truly humanitarian.

Visitors are always welcome at the Braille Institute, and its printing plant, 739 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles—telephone OLYmpia 1121. The story of these institutions, told more fully, will be mailed to any reader who asks for it.

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LIGHT

To further acquaint sighted people with the ambitions and success of the blind, and enlist aid in meeting their problem of securing good reading matter.

Published Eight Times a Year by Braille Institute of America, Inc.
741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California

\$3 a year—every subscription turned into a free subscription for a Braille magazine to a needy blind reader

James H. Collins, Editor

J. Robert Atkinson, Vice-President and Manager

Jerry M. Nesbitt, Business Mgr.

VOL. 4

FEBRUARY, 1932

NO. 1

Pleased to Meet You!

By JAMES H. COLLINS

SAID the employer, "I'd be glad to give work to blind people, if there was anything here they could do."

Said the visitor, a personnel man, "Suppose we see what kind of work you have?"

Walking through the factory, they found several tasks well-fitted to blind operatives.

"Well—maybe so . . ." hesitated the employer. "But who would bring the blind down every morning, and take them home at night?"

* * *

If this manufacturer got hold of a blind chap like Joe Huber, that worry would be off his mind—read the article about Joe, on the next page, and see who brought him to the theater orchestra every day, and took him home.

Sighted people are not to be blamed because they have no personal acquaintance among blind people. It is up to somebody to start things with a few good introductions. As the self-reliance of the blind is better known, there will be

more employment, and the placement problem should not be so hard.

* * *

Just honest-to-goodness jobs!

That is what most blind persons need—regular jobs, for real wages, among sighted workers, in offices and factories, with the little old pay envelope every Saturday noon, and the healthy normal life among regular workers.

LIGHT is the magazine of the ambitions and success of the blind.

By telling the personal stories of blind men and women in each issue, we expect to make the introductions which will bring about better acquaintance with sighted people.

To help out with the reading problems of the blind is our first big objective.

Placement comes next. Introduction through the printed word is our way of tackling it.

Give the blind jobs, and they will solve the transportation problem, appreciate their opportunities, earn their money—and not watch the clock!

Joe Huber—Blind Play-Boy

Music and Teaching Do Not Absorb All His Energy, So the Rest Goes to Fishing and Pranks

By JAMES H. COLLINS

THIS is all new to me, going around among the progressive blind, but I am learning fast, and one thing I know now—that if an up-and-coming blind fellow can put one over on a sighted fellow, it is duck soup. And that goes for both sexes!

Anything like the following experience tickles a blind fellow for a week—especially if he is a blind play-boy like Joe Huber:

"I was riding on the back platform of a street car," says Joe, "and an enthusiastic fisherman got on. He was so pleased with his catch that he began telling me about it. In a little while, he was holding his fish up before my eyes, and pointing out each beauty. As he talked, it was easy to guess the kind of fish, and the size, and we had quite a discussion as to whether this one, or that, weighed a half-pound more or less. My admiration added a lot to his pleasure.

"Well, I came to my street, and got off the car, and then the conductor, who knew me, told the fisherman I couldn't see a thing. They had quite a hot argument about it!"

In 1900, when he was a boy of twelve, Joseph L. Huber lost his sight, and one hand, in the delayed explosion of a fire cracker. For a quarter century he has not only earned his own living, but a good one, as a musician and music teacher. He is happily married, has a thirteen-year-old daughter, and makes his home in St. Louis.

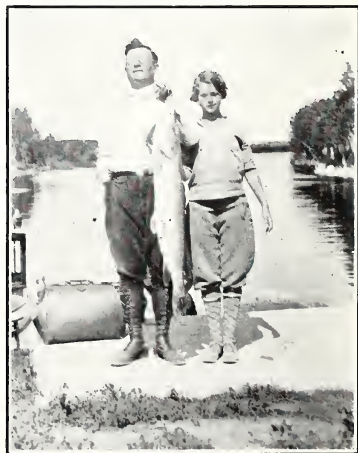
Mr. Huber is a man of remarkable vitality, mental and physical, never finding enough hours in the day to do the work that interests him, and never satisfied with any achievement—tomorrow it must be done over again, and done better. He has an excess of energy and spirits that runs over into play and tricks, on the slightest opportunity.

For instance, once he got a job playing in a theater orchestra. All his music had to be memorized from Braille notes, made

by himself. To fill an orchestra chair and play satisfactorily would be enough for most people, but not Joe Huber.

A sighted friend led him to the theater, and showed him where he was to sit. After that, he went alone. He would walk in, take his place, turn on the light over his music rack, look at the conductor, start at his tap, and play through the show. He held that job a year before the theater manager, who saw him every day, discovered that he was blind. The deception was so complete that he would not believe until he had gone to Huber, and asked him if it was true, that he was sightless.

A few months after his accident, Huber went to the Missouri School for the Blind, staying seven years, and learning music. While he played the cornet in orchestras, he was studying, and in 1911 he began teaching a system of breath control for the playing of brass instruments. Since then, he has taught thousands of mu-



Joe Huber's idea of a perfect day—in the North woods with his daughter

sicians, instructing large classes in different cities.

The system taught by Huber, which he learned from Herbert L. Clarke, famous cornet soloist, is easily described. Instead of blowing into the instrument, the player breathes into it, easily and naturally, producing a clear musical tone, with no foreign noises. The lungs must be completely inflated, and the breath controlled so that long passages can be played with confidence. The system requires practice and patience, but it produces remarkable results, and Mr. Huber's reputation as a teacher brings him pupils steadily, in large numbers.

"I never did let anybody treat me as a blind man!" he said, when told about the purpose of this new magazine, *LIGHT*. "And I am heartily in favor of educating sighted people to the capabilities of the blind, because it will do everything toward helping the latter overcome some of the seeming handicap that confronts them in trying to get started.

"I've always tried to be as natural as the rest of the world, and always do just what sighted people do, whenever possible. That was what put 'kick' into my experience at the theater, and what makes little episodes like that with the fisherman so pleasant for everybody.

"As a boy, after losing my sight, I did everything like other boys, even to playing tricks on the neighborhood cranks who didn't like boys. I was always strong, and could stand the roughest games, and took everything that came my way, and at school, and at home, my pals were sighted boys, and I do not remember that they noticed my handicap.

"It was certainly tough, though, when I started to make my way in music—'breaking into the music business,' as I call it. There was little or nothing in Braille for my instrument, and I spent most of my spare time running all over St. Louis, getting different friends to dictate music to me, while I put it down in Braille with a Braille slate. Most of it had to be read over and over, and then when I memorized it, I found it full of mistakes. You can realize what that meant when I had to play it in an orchestra! But the experience taught me a lot—among other things, patience.

"Finally, I met a young lady who seemed to have a better sense of what it meant to me to read music correctly. She read it perfectly. I fell in love with her, and we were married, but before that, the young lady learned to operate a Braille typewriter, and took over transcribing all the music I needed.

"I must have studied with every cornet tutor—and tooter—in this country, and played every kind of musical engagement from a dog fight to a cornet solo. And I never regretted this experience. When I started to teach, I took my first six pupils on probation, with the understanding that they were not to pay for the first month's lessons. But after that, if they felt my teaching was worth the price, they would have to pay by the month in advance.

"I have always demanded that, and have never had a bad week either in teaching or playing. I enjoy my work immensely, work hard for ten months in the year, and then spend the other two months visiting fine musicians and teachers, and music publishers, and attending band and orchestra concerts and rehearsals.

"And sometimes in fishing! When I fish, I fish just as conscientiously as I work. I have fished every stream in Missouri with the fly-rod and bait rod, and also most of our beautiful international lakes up north. Drowning worms and minnows never did appeal to me, it is too slow to suit me, I want action. I have made some wonderful trips back into the wilds of Minnesota and the Canadian lake country, and know the routes over many large lakes—have directed guides to points I have visited before, but which had not been visited by them.

"In teaching and band directing I always make it a point to know everything about the music I am using, even to the smallest detail, and I call the players' attention to any little thing that they may miss. That creates the confidence so necessary in a teacher."

The latest overflow of Joe Huber's energy has led to his organizing a concert band composed of sixty St. Louis high school boys, and shortly before Christmas these boys, after several months practice, gave their first public concert.

Four Ways by Which the Blind Write

**"Just a Moment—I'll Make a Note of That," Says
Your Sightless Friend—And Here's How It's Done**

By J. ROBERT ATKINSON

"HOW can the blind write?" is often asked—and the blind asked themselves that question until a hundred years ago, when Louis Braille, the French inventor of raised dot reading, adapted his system to writing.

The blind have four ways of writing: 1. By Braille dots, made with a slate and stylus. 2. By Braille typewriter. 3. By ordinary typewriter. 4. In ordinary script.

For years, if the blind received a letter, it must be read to them. They had no confidential correspondence, and no handy memos in their vest pockets. But Louis Braille changed all that.

In my business, I have stenographers, who do much of my work. But I would be lost without my own typewriters, and my Braille slate for jotting down notes.

The first device for writing Braille was very crude and slow. It was the Braille desk slate, two heavy metal plates, hinged together at one end. The lower plate is a matrix, with pits grouped in sixes, on the Braille system, each group called a Braille "cell." The upper plate has holes to correspond. A sheet of heavy paper is placed between the plates, and raised dots are made with a stylus, something like a shoemaker's awl. The writing must be done from right to left, so that it reads from left to right when the paper is turned.

Crude, yet very handy, because the plates can be carried around for pocket notes—blind salesmen, attorneys, writers and business people make notes this way almost as rapidly as a sighted person with pad and pencil.

* * *

Next came the Braille typewriter, of which thousands are in use. The blind man's typewriter has only six keys, one for each of the six dots in the Braille system. They resemble the black keys on a piano. A Braille letter or contraction, consisting of an arrangement of the dots, is written by striking the necessary combination of keys. It is done at a single stroke, and as fast as ordinary type writing.

All blind persons in business, and many who are not, learn to operate the ordinary typewriter, and as fast and accurately as a sighted person.

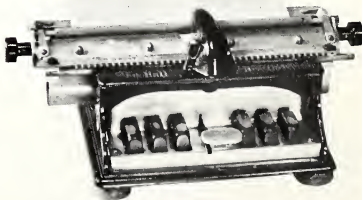
"Do they have raised letters on the keys?" is often asked. The answer is, no—in schools for the blind, and in their homes when blinded in after life, they are taught to write by the same touch system that enables the sighted stenographer to rattle off letters.

In my business and editorial work, I would be lost without my "sighted" portable typewriter, for use at home, and when traveling, and my standard typewriter in the office.

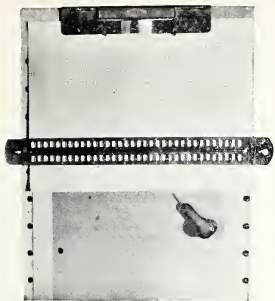
The blind write script with the aid of several inventions. These are mechanical devices that guide the pen or pencil across the page. The simplest is a heavy corrugated cardboard, the size of letter paper. The blind writer follows the wide grooves in this cardboard when writing. The most successful contrivance is a mechanical device consisting of a movable grooved metal bar, operating in a frame that extends at right angles across the paper page, the groove serving as a track for one of the writer's fingers.

* * *

The practical value of Braille was shown the other day in an experience of my own. I was sitting alone in my office, catching up with accumulated work. It was Saturday, and everybody else had gone.



The blind man's close friend—a Braille typewriter



The Braille slate is handy for jotting notes—
like pad and pencil to the blind

Suddenly, my door opened, and two gentlemen came in, one leading the other.

One was a deaf blind mute. He could not see, hear or talk! His guide had sight, but was also deaf, and unable to talk. He could write script, but that furnished no channel of communication with myself, who am blind.

Presently, the man with sight handed me an ordinary printed book, not a Braille volume, I did not know his purpose in handing it to me. And he could not tell me in a language that I could comprehend!

What was I to do? The situation was tense, humiliating, and to some extent irritating.

All at once, I saw a possible way out. Turning to my Braille typewriter, I wrote a question in Braille, asking the purpose of their visit. I took a chance, for I did not know that either was blind, or that either could read Braille. So I stated that I was blind, and asked for an answer in Braille. The deaf-blind mute read my question quickly, and as he could operate a Braille typewriter, he answered that he had come to see if we could print, in Braille, the book he had handed me. He wrote the name of the book.

It so happened that we had just printed that book for an Eastern institution, so I wrote the information for him, and he was so delighted that I could feel his pleasure.

In this experience, Braille was the only method in the world by which that deaf-

blind mute and myself could communicate with each other.

In our total blind population, approximately nine persons in ten, or 100,000, have lost their sight in maturity. All have some education, and many are college graduates. But to readjust themselves to the world, they must again learn to read and write.

Of the two, reading Braille is the simplest to acquire, though it is a more difficult task than most people suppose. The mastery of both Braille reading and writing is a praiseworthy achievement, and one well worth while, and one which every blinded man and woman should strive for.

Through the Open Forum page of our monthly magazine, the "Braille Mirror," our blind readers express their views in no unmistakable terms, discussing problems that concern their welfare, as well as current questions of the day. Their letters are reprinted in this department, in Braille, over their signatures and addresses, and as a result, many of them make new friends, with whom they carry on correspondence in Braille.



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They Need "Pep"—And Call Tom Butler

How a Merchandise Man Turned His Past Experience to Practical Use After Losing Sight

Mainly by TOM BUTLER Himself

YOU have heard "Andy" call in "Lightnin'" for a "pep" talk. Well, that is a business with Thomas S. Butler, a brand-new profession, which he developed himself, after he had lost his sight.

And Tom Butler says that until one night, in 1924, when he went to bed with anticipation of a trip to Europe, and woke up next morning blind, he really never knew what he was capable of accomplishing—nor how much zest there was to life.

Tom had been working hard, for a Pacific Coast store, where he was in charge of the leather goods department. By strict attention, he had pulled his department out of the red, and the firm had given him a vacation, with expenses paid to Europe.

"What would you do if you had planned such a trip, and were leaving in a week, and you woke up a blind man?" he asks. "You would probably depend upon your savings. But if you had saved nothing, you would be sitting in the dark, waiting for something to turn up. Or caning your way along the streets, filled with fear, because all power, to a certain degree, had been taken away from you.

"This is the situation in which I found myself. Without a minute's warning, I lost the set of tools I had used for many years in earning the livelihood for a large family, and was thrust into a pit of darkness, with nothing to work myself out."

Tom Butler was born and raised in Salt Lake City, of Mormon parentage, and from a boy of ten had been connected in some way or other with merchandising, as a store salesman or proprietor, or in a department store organization.

Today, he uses his experience as a salesman to coach others, along with a lot of things he has learned about selling, and about people, and about himself, since he lost his sight.

In Los Angeles, many large concerns call in Tom Butler when they have new

salesmen to break in, or when their salesmen are slipping, and he explains the psychology of selling in ways that can be practically employed by men selling about everything under the sun, from life insurance to milk on routes. Or when a sales force is "down," and being licked by its own fears, Tom Butler restores courage. This work is a definite commodity, and business concerns pay him for it—not because he is blind.

* * *

"Sitting in my home, after two years of darkness," he continued, "and about ready for the insane asylum, I heard a voice over the radio make the announcement that a person could learn the art of public speaking in seventeen lessons if he would join a class at the downtown Y. M. C. A. The thought immediately came to me that, if I could master public speaking, I could instruct salespeople instead of directing them, as I had been doing for many years.

"Let me explain that, like many business men, I had never learned to speak in public, or even to put together a good talk for employees under me, making plain the character of their work. I could not go before my boss, or a board of directors, and give an interesting account of my own work. In other words, if the board invited me to tell how good I was, maybe with a view to raising my pay, I couldn't put the story over! This situation will be recognized by many business men, and in my case it arose partly from neglect, but more through fear.

"Well, the next day, holding a small boy's hand, I stumbled into the Y. M. C. A. and joined the public speaking class.



Tom Butler

And the work was so interesting, and gave me so much pleasure, and so many happy thoughts to think, that I took three courses of public speaking, and two of memory training. And this study made me a bigger and better man, and a happier one, and showed me how to re-establish myself in business, and earn a livelihood.

"Since finishing these studies, I have averaged a public address every other week, for the past five years. I have appeared before all the leading social and civic clubs of Southern California, and also given sales talks in many of the leading mercantile establishments of Los Angeles.

* * *

"You may think, from all this, that I am a millionaire.

"I am!

"Because, I have control of the greatest thing on earth, the Mind. I am the master of my own self, which I was about to lose, and possibly be strapped to the floor, because I had lost all control.

"Many of my talks are remunerative, as far as dollars and cents are concerned, but the greatest number have been given because of the inspiration I wanted to pass on to others who were not as fortunate as I have been in seeing the good in everything.

"In addition to public speaking, and the memory training that is so necessary after loss of eyesight, I took up the study of life insurance, and passed my examination with high marks, and have put this knowledge to practical use. Also, I took up club management, and at the present time am manager of one of Los Angeles' outstanding and unique clubs, a group of forty business and professional men who are mastering the thing that is putting more people in their graves than all the diseases known to man—Fear!"

This club is called the "Toastmasters," and the members are merchants, doctors and others who have discovered their need for facility in public speaking. They meet one evening each week, for practice and coaching, having found that regular drill, as well as association with others with the same purpose, is the best way to get facility and keep it.

"Until I lost my sight," concluded Mr. Butler, "I never knew that I lived. From

that minute on, I had to begin to think and study. The happiest people in the world are those who can think interesting thoughts. But in this, as in everything else worth while, there is no excellence without labor. Public speaking has given me a world of pleasure, and brought me in association with the finest sort of people, and little by little I have filled my days full of useful things that make a contented mind, the thoughts of the people I have met, and their philosophy of life, and their thoughts and acts toward others.

"If I could stand on top of the highest mountain, and shout loud enough so everybody would hear me, I would shout, 'Blessed be Education,' because it is one of the greatest aids to a troubled and fearful mind—not only those who are blind, deaf or dumb, but to everybody!"

"To make Braille literature a mirror of life, to keep this mirror clean that it may reflect the beautiful, the good and the true, in social, civil, political and economic reform, so that the people in Brailleland may keep well informed on world affairs, acquire a renewed interest in life, and become resourceful, happy citizens of the world."—Objective of "Braille Mirror."

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The Five-Year Plan of the Braille Institute of America

THE Braille Institute of America is a non-profit California corporation, founded in 1929, to support the work of publishing books and magazines for the adult blind.

In July, 1931, its trustees drew up two plans: First, a five-year program for raising \$1,000,000; second, a plan for immediately promoting five publishing projects:

1. To finance the publication of Funk & Wagnalls' Desk Standard Dictionary, in 25 to 30 volumes, and sell it to the blind at a reasonable price—one of their greatest needs.

2. To lower the price of two magazines, the "Braille Mirror" and the "March of Events," so circulation may be increased—and the magazines sent free where blind readers cannot pay.

3. To publish a magazine for blind women.

4. To publish each year several Braille books to be given free to libraries over the nation, especially books the blind themselves select.

5. To increase Braille music publishing activities and supply needed music to blind musicians.

From the \$1,000,000 endowment fund to be raised between 1931 and 1936, a permanent endowment fund of \$600,000 will be placed in trust, with a large Los Angeles trust company, and the income will be used to publish and distribute Braille books and magazines, as well as assist in distributing Braille Bibles.

The Institute's endowment fund has received the unqualified endorsement of the Los Angeles Department of Social Service, an official bureau of the city govern-

ment, which thoroughly investigates all fund-raising projects. This endorsement practically guarantees that the cause is worthy; that funds will be spent for the purpose intended by givers, not wasted in expenses; and that the finances and management have been looked into, and found business like.

For all information, write or telephone The Trustees, Braille Institute of America, Inc., 739 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California. Telephone OLympia 1121.

A Blind Wrestler

Making the varsity wrestling squad is something that might seem outside the range of a blind college student. Yet Sherry Stotts, blind student at the University of Colorado, Boulder, has displayed ability in that line, and is a candidate in the 165 pound class. Stotts has developed a style of his own, which consists of dropping to the mat as soon as he enters the ring, and waiting for his opponent to close with him. This gives him the clue to the other fellow's tactics by feeling, and he is adept in meeting holds with his own technique. His choice of wrestling reflects the progressive spirit among sightless college students.

Sighted people who like to read, understand best the reading problems of the blind. On that account, each subscription to this magazine, "Light," sent by the sighted reader, is turned into a free subscription for one of our Braille magazines, sent to some blind reader unable to pay for it.

First 100 Years of Raised-Print Bibles

Story of Past Systems and Great Need for Public's Support of Braille Bible

THIS year is the first centennial of Bibles in raised print for the blind. In 1832, after 200 years of experiment, the Gospel of St. John was printed in raised Roman letters designed by John Allston, of Glasgow, Scotland.

Meanwhile, experiments in America were under way, and by 1844 the complete Bible was available to the blind in a system of raised Roman letters specially cast and designated as "Boston Line Letter." Everything was done to make the Roman letters more tangible to the touch. Yet no matter what modifications were affected in the size, shape and face of the letters, they still remained difficult to negotiate, and reading by the blind was slow.

Finally, in the effort to make it easier for the blind to read, other systems were evolved until there were five in all, called "Moon," "Boston Line Letter," "New York Point," "American Braille," and "European Braille," the first four of which were commonly used in America. Eventually, Bibles were printed in all five systems.

In 1918 the "European Braille" system, slightly modified, was officially adopted in this country as the standard system of Braille for the English-reading blind. This necessitated the republication of the Bible, in order that it might be made available to the newly blinded adults, including the blinded veterans of the World War, taught only the standard system.

The first edition of the Bible in this standard Braille system was published in 1924, by the Universal Braille Press, with the aid of philanthropy. This activity was taken over in 1925 by the Braille Bible Society, which was chartered under the laws of California in 1927 as a non profit, non sectarian organization devoted exclusively to the publication in Braille of the King James version of the Bible.

In the seven years since this first Braille edition of the Bible was made available, about 12,000 volumes have been distributed to the blind, free or at prices they are able to pay, always very much below the non-profit publishing cost.

The cost of producing and distributing a Braille Bible, bound in twenty-one volumes, under present conditions, approxi-

mates \$163. The present distribution price is \$21, or \$1 a volume postpaid, and volumes are sold singly. However, more Bibles are supplied free to the blind than are sold, even at this price, which is dear compared to Bibles in ordinary type.

The demand for Braille Bibles steadily increases.

First, because the standard Braille system is the only one now taught to blind children in our elementary schools, to the civilian adult blind, and to the blinded veterans of the World War.

Second, because of the increasing number of the blind who have never before read any embossed system, who are being inspired to master Braille. To these, and to all classes for that matter, the Bible is the book to which they naturally turn for comfort and it is the one book which above all others they wish to possess as their own.

Third, because thousands of blind readers who have in the past learned one or all of the five embossed systems previously used, have worn out their Bibles printed in those systems. For economy's sake, although readers of the standard Braille system, they have sacrificed the advantages which make Bible reading a delight in the new Braille Bible until their old Bibles have become so dilapidated they must be replaced with new ones.

Fourth, because in the present depression, the blind, like thousands of others, are turning as never before to the Book of all books for help and comfort.

To meet these increasing demands for Braille Bibles, at prices the blind are able to pay, and to make free grants to the needy, a substantial budget in the amount of \$12,000 should be immediately available. Obviously, Braille Bibles cannot be manufactured and marketed commercially. In the absence of permanent endowments, it must be sustained by voluntary contributions of the public. Support to the extent of your ability will be appreciated.

Address your contribution to **Braille Bible Society, Inc., 739 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.**

(Further information will be furnished on request, and a receipt for your contribution mailed promptly.)

Blinded Boy Chooses Dramatic Career

Play Writing Is Al Johnson's Goal—And to Reach It He's Working His Way Through Yale

SUCCESS as a playwright is the ideal set for himself by Al Johnson, a California boy who, six years ago, was stricken blind while preparing to enter college.

And to prove that he has the stuff in him, Johnson has built up a reputation as a dramatic reader while studying at the University of Redlands, supporting himself and paying his way through college. Last fall, he went to Yale, to complete a post graduate course for his master's degree.

Not one person in ten who hears Al Johnson as a professional play reader suspects that he is totally blind. Because, his eyes are vivid, alert and expressive, and he makes skillful use of a resonant singing voice. And far from letting his audience know that he is handicapped, he conceals his blindness for dramatic effect, understanding that nothing must divert attention from his reading.



Al Johnson

Photo Courtesy Los Angeles Illustrated Daily News.

This young man has been blind six years, and during four years at Redlands, directed more than 50 plays, including the four annual musical extravaganzas, with casts of 150 performers. At Bakersfield, California, his home, he has been director of a little theater, and he has directed numerous professional productions.

Both in his studies, and in the plays he produces, Johnson is compelled to rely upon others who read to him, because the literature in which he has chosen to make his career is not printed in Braille. The texts must be heard and memorized, and he has developed a remarkable facility in retaining what is read to him.

And for a young man with such an ambition, not everything is to be found in books.

Three quarters of his stock in trade can be secured through hearing and sound thinking.

How people act under stress of emotions like pity, anger, love and fear, is what the dramatist wants to know, and also the reader. These things are learned by quiet observation of people who usually do something entirely different from what might be expected. With such materials, the dramatist puts together his plots, carefully calculated to arouse corresponding emotions in an audience, and carry it up to climaxes of feeling.

Even the art of dramatic production, the staging of plays, depends upon such facility, and the accessories of scenery, lighting, music and the like, which largely intensify the dramatic effect, can be carried out through others.

Al Johnson has chosen an ideal career, one in which he will succeed pretty much as he lives with sighted people, and uses his observations to entertain other sighted people. The fact that he does this well already, to audiences never suspecting his handicap, shows that he has a strong sense of drama.

A Will In Braille

Can a will, punched in Braille dots, and unwitnessed, be admitted to probate? This question recently came before a Los Angeles judge, who decided that the unusual document was a valid holographic will. Because it was in the testator's own handwriting, it did not require witnessing.

Milton E. McCallister, a blind man, died at the age of 89, leaving this will to dispose of about \$15,000, an estate to be distributed to several beneficiaries. His will was written on a Braille typewriter. Judge Crail declared that it would have been valid even if punched with a pin.

What's In Our Magazines

The blind want to be in the world, promptly posted on current affairs, and able to discuss questions of the day with sighted people. To keep them posted is the first purpose of our two monthly Braille magazines.

"March of Events" is the timely comment read by sighted people in the "World's Work," and by arrangements with Doubleday, Doran & Company, we publish it simultaneously with the appearance of the printed magazine, adding a selection from the articles for good measure. This is a new and much appreciated source of information for Braille readers.

Our "Braille Mirror" is an older periodical, dating back to 1926, and the following summary of its contents for November gives a good idea of its interest for the blind:

News Notes and Rambling Comment on current events, condensed from the daily papers, with some events followed from day to day.

Thanksgiving—The origin and spirit of the day. Passing of Thomas A. Edison. Punishment of Chicago gangsters. Americanized Version of the Bible.

The Lesson of the Day—reprinted editorial about business conditions. Thinking Things Through—reprinted editorial.

Two-Story Traffic—a solution for the traffic problem. Bernard Shaw's View on Prohibition. Times Hard Now—reprinted editorial. Deep-Sea Cables—semi-technical article. Who Invented the Auto?—semi-technical article.

Braille Book Review Magazine—review of our publications. Warning!—business tips from the Better Business Bureau. Voices from Brailleland—letters from our readers. Unemployment Committee Reports—news of a current problem.

Brailleland Business News Reel—practical and inspirational digest from the business press, edited by James H. Collins.

Mediterranean Sketches—travel talks by George E. Chase, very popular with the blind.

Wit and Humor—department. An announcement of the new magazine, "Light," advertisements and short items.

This issue of the "Braille Mirror" had 80 pages, 11½ by 13½ inches, and contained about as much reading matter as an ink-print magazine of the same number of pages.

Our Friendly Message in Four Lines

If Thy Watch Runs Fine.
THINK Of Arnold's And Of Service SUBLIME;
If An Evil Watch's Thine.
COME To Arnold's And Have A.... "GOOD TIME"

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Recent Books for the Blind

No book lover, scanning the review of new books, is more eager for good reading than the blind who depend upon the libraries throughout the nation that circulate Braille books through their lending departments for the blind.

So, the following list of recent additions may mean something to sighted book-lovers.

Most of the books have been sponsored, financed and published entirely by the Braille Institute of America and its printing department, the Universal Braille Press, and placed for circulation in the various libraries throughout the nation which maintain free lending-book departments for the blind. All books in the list not otherwise marked as to sponsor, are Braille Institute publications.

To this list might be added some 60 booklets in the American Library Association's "Reading with a Purpose" series, which we printed in Braille and distributed free to libraries.

The Story of the Pony Express, by Glenn D. Bradley, 1 vol., cost \$6.28, selling price, \$2.75.

Influencing Men in Business—The Psychology of Argument and Suggestion, by Walter Dill Scott, Ph.D., 1 vol. cost \$8.34, selling price, \$3.00.

God Have Mercy on Us! by Walter T. Scanlon, 2 vols., cost \$16.29, selling price \$7.00.

(1) Science and the New Civilization, by Robert A. Millikan, 1 vol., cost \$8.12, selling price, \$3.00.

Spanish Lover, by Frank H. Spearman, 3 vols., cost \$25.31, selling price \$10.00.

Jefferson and Hamilton—The Struggle for Democracy in America, by Claude G. Bowers, 6 vols., cost \$57.17, selling price \$20.00.

(2) Little America, by Richard Evelyn Bird, 4 vols., cost \$34.35, selling price \$12.25.

(3) A Challenge to Darkness, by J. Georges Scapini, 1 vol., cost \$7.34, selling price \$2.75.

Geography and Our Need Of It, by J. Russell Smith, 1 vol., cost \$1.71, selling price 75c.

The Pacific Area in Inter-National Relations, by J. B. Condliffe, 1 vol., cost \$1.78, selling price 75c.

Representative Twentieth-Century Americans, by M. A. DeWolfe Howe, 1 vol., cost \$1.56, selling price 75c.

Russian Literature, by Avraham Yarmolinsky, 1 vol., cost \$2.23, selling price 75c.

English History, by George H. Locke, 1 vol., cost \$2.27, selling price 75c.

Evolution, by J. Arthur Thompson, 1 vol., cost \$2.14, selling price 75c.

Chats on Feature Writing, by H. F. Harrington, 5 vols., cost \$43.81, selling price \$15.00.

New Worlds to Conquer, by Richard Halliburton, 2 vols., cost \$15.81, selling price \$6.00.

George Washington, by Woodrow Wilson, 2 vols., cost \$10.36, selling price \$6.50.

The French Revolution, by Shailer Mathews, 4 vols., cost \$22.70, selling price \$12.00.

Ken Ward in the Jungle, by Zane Grey, 2 vols., cost \$16.15, selling price \$5.25.

Burning Daylight, by Jack London, 3 vols., cost \$23.69, selling price \$8.50.

Popular Questions Answered, by George W. Stimpson, 5 vols., cost \$43.85, selling price \$15.00.

(4) The Nemesis of American Business and Other Essays, by Stuart Chase, 2 vols., cost \$6.20, selling price, \$3.80.

(4) The Epic of America, by James Truslow Adams, 5 vols., cost \$20.66, selling price \$12.65.

(4) The Human Habitat, by Ellsworth Huntington, 2 vols., cost \$10.93, selling price \$6.70.

(4) The Causes of the War of Independence, by Claude H. Van Tyne, 4 vols., cost \$21.57, selling price \$10.36.

¹ Sponsored by American Association for Advancement of Science, in cooperation with the American Library Association.

² Sponsored by the American Library Association.

³ Sponsored by Mrs. J. P. Lockwood under the auspices of American Library Association

⁴ Sponsored by Library of Congress.

Two Things You Can Do

Starting a new magazine these days is no easy enterprise. For even the biggest national magazines show the drop in advertising.

We have been able to launch LIGHT, and put it on the unique basis of a subscription to a Braille magazine, for a blind reader, for every subscription sent in by a sighted reader, because the usefulness of our work has been admitted by advertisers, and backed by their support.

The cost of publishing LIGHT is paid by our advertisers, and thus the support of our readers is converted into more Braille literature for the blind.

If you like this magazine, you can do your bit in two ways. First, subscribe and be the means of sending a Braille magazine to some sightless reader unable to pay. Second, patronize the advertisers who are backing this worthy work.

Winchendon, Mass., June 23, 1931.

Dear Sir:

Have had the Mirror ever since it was first published, and hope to have it as long as I need it. It is a splendid magazine.

Yours truly,

Mrs. Marvin E. Brown.

Before You Give Money—Read!

How Los Angeles Safeguards the People Who Give Money for Worthy Purposes

Every dweller in an American city expects the municipal government to see that food, water and other essentials of health are inspected and safeguarded.

Los Angeles goes farther in certain directions, and among other things, supervises the solicitation and use of money raised among citizens for philanthropy.

The Los Angeles City Department of Social Service exercises such supervision, under a city ordinance covering every type of appeal that can be made, directly or indirectly, in the name of charity, philanthropy or patriotism, including even the soliciting of memberships, and the sale of articles where there is a charitable appeal.

The department has a board of five commissioners, of which Thos. A. J. Dockweiler is president, and a staff consisting of Mrs. Anna B. Smith, general manager, Major W. J. Fitzmaurice, investigator, and clerical workers.

Under the new ordinance passed May 9, 1931, the requirements are greatly in-

creased in respect to the information that must be furnished by every soliciting agency. An investigation is made before approval is given. This investigation includes an audit of books.

The department issues an information card to approved agencies, to be carried by solicitors for funds, and the public is urged to ask for this card, and to read it carefully before contributing. The law requires that the card must be shown or read by the solicitor. It is not an endorsement, but gives the facts that have been found in the investigation—the purpose of the charity, the methods of raising money, the percentage allowed for collecting, the amount that must be devoted to the work, and so on.

By reading this card in every case, the person giving money makes certain that his or her donation will be used properly, for the relief work of the city, and not dissipated in unworthy causes.

The Braille Institute of America bears the approval of the Department of Social Service, which was given after a painstaking investigation, to make certain that it is a non-profit organization, seeking funds for a great public work.

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with the job*

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For a Hard-Time Pal, Gimme a Blind Guy!

So Says Our Hard-Boiled Subscription Man—
And Here Are His Own Particular Reasons



LISTEN: If I was picking out a pal to live with through a depression, I'd pick a blind guy every time—and here's why:

Hard times don't begin to gloom a blind guy the way they do some of the sighted people you know. A blind guy has a real handicap, and the little everyday worries run off him like duck feathers. In hard times, a life people are worrying about the problems of the world—but not the blind guy.

Every blind guy who has lost his sight—or her's—after growing up, has been through the worst of all depressions. And got through! And is bending all energies to making a living, and a life, on the conditions laid down. And cheerful about it.

The cheerfulness of blind people is on the gold standard, one hundred cents to the dollar, I'm telling you!

* * *

There's only one way Old Man Depression can get a blind guy, and that's by cutting off his work or business. The blind aim to work as near like sighted people as possible. The general shrinkage in business has hit them just as it does sighted people—no less, no more.

You ought to sit in here, at the subscription desk of our Braille magazines, some morning and read the letters. When a blind reader sends money, it is some thing bigger than business. He or she writes to say how much the magazines are appreciated and maybe disagree with the editor, too. The blind guy, male or female, often writes about his or her experiences, and work, and hopes, and opinions—and believe that they have them!

Sitting at this desk is keeping up a pleasant acquaintance with brave, cheerful people all over the country, and in other countries. No fellows in the publishing line get to know their readers like the editor and subscription man of a Braille magazine.

Now, here's something: For the past few months these good blind pals have been writing in to say that, this time, they just guess they will have to let the subscription lapse for a while.

The well known depression? Oh, it hasn't hit them as hard as some others. Until the middle of last year it didn't seem to make much difference. It is only just lately the shrinkage in things has begun to kind of cut in, and money has to be managed a little more carefully, and—well, reading is one of their greatest pleasures, and they'd hate to get out of step with the big cock eyed world. But for the present they do not see their way to renew, and it will be the first time since they started reading the magazine, and they hope that before long they can send the money, and be readers again.

* * *

And here's the thing that gets under your vest:

These blind guys, male and female, feel sorry. Not for themselves, but for the Editor and me. They know publishing Braille magazines has been a fight from the start. They hate to desert the battle to publish up-to-date reading matter for them.

Lucky, we saw this thing looming up early last year, and so we started LIGHT for sighted people, on the basis of a subscription to a Braille magazine, free to a blind reader who needs it, for every three dollars sent for LIGHT. That only covers about half the cost of the Braille magazine, but heck! as long as we can do it, we're going to do it! Some blind reader, male or female, unable to pay on account of—you know what!

LIGHT is worth three dollars, with its stories of the ambitions and successes of the blind. If you, Sighted Reader, male or male, feel that you'd like to cheer up a blind pal until we get out of the woods, your subscription will be particularly welcome right now.

And I wish you'd drop me a line about it, because this is a condition, and not a theory.

The Subscription Man

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charge as Manager who will be glad to
welcome all her friends at Rupnow's.
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1. His advertisement reaches a select group of intelligent, successful people.

Advertisements in "Light" are each exclusive to the line of business represented.

2. Advertising support makes possible the extension of our work for the blind.

"Light" has awakened many people to the needs of the blind in their struggle for progress and success.

3. An advertisement in "Light" can hardly fail to interest these kindly, open-hearted readers, influencing their patronage in your favor.

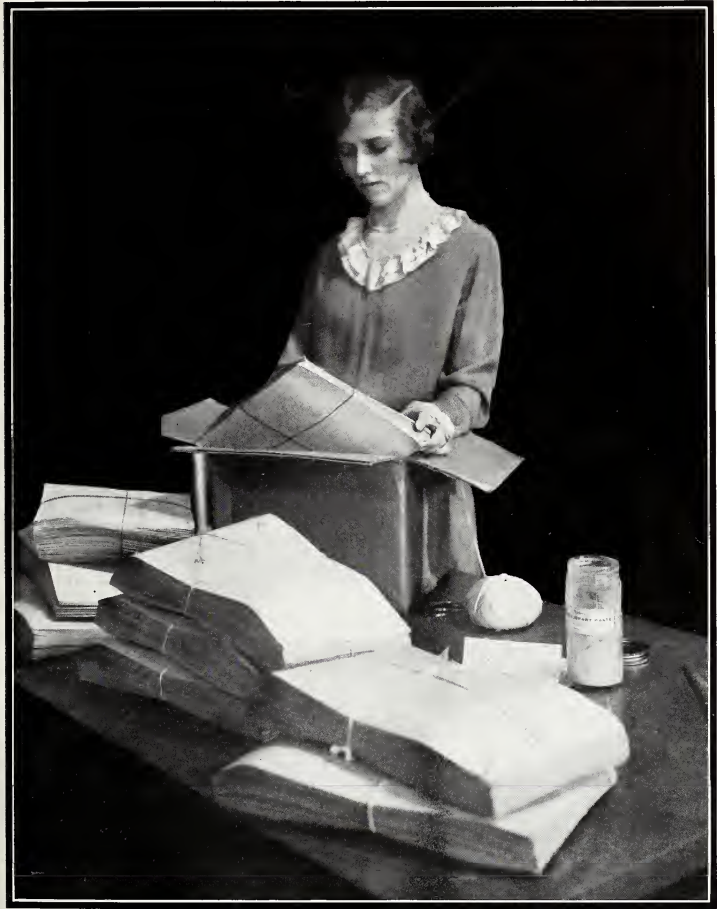
"Light" is supported solely by its modest advertising revenue. Only sufficient space is sold to cover costs. For rates and information, telephone OLympia 1121.



A New and Greater Garbo

is to be seen and heard where Sid Grauman presents the star of stars and Ramon Novarro in "Mata Hari" in the Chinese Theatre with a gorgeous new Sid Grauman Prologue.

LIGHT



American Red Cross Photo

A BRAILLE BOOK COPIED BY RED CROSS WORKERS

(See Page 8)

APRIL, 1932

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Braille Bible Society, Inc.
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LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

—See Page 11—



Want to know some movie actors? Turn to Page 4 and meet these blind children, who appear in the new picture "A Symphony in Six Million."

—Radio-Keith-Orpheum photo

Contents for April, 1932

A Strange Country—Editorial	3
Regular Actors and Regular Fellows, by James H. Collins	4
Problem—Find a Career for This Boy, by Carlyle Hoadley	6
Red Cross Reading for the Blind, by G. E. Wilton	8
We Also Have Our Five-Year Plan	10
Braille Bible Need Greater Than Ever	11
A Broad Welfare Program	12
News of the Blind	13
Robbins Loves Writing—And Humanity	14
1931 Reviewed at Yearly Meeting	15
Take a Minute to Tune-In on My Mail, by The Subscription Man	16

The Story of the Braille Institute

IN 1912, a Montana cowboy lost his sight by accident, almost instantly. Always a reader, he mastered Braille, and then looked around for books that would help him to a business education. Nobody was publishing such books, nor did the blind have magazines to keep them posted on the world's affairs.

Starting in a garage back of his Los Angeles home, in 1920, J. Robert Atkinson made a beginning with the Universal Braille Press, printing books on machinery partly of his own invention. Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear, philanthropists, aided him financially.

In 1926 he started the first secular Braille magazine in this country, the "Braille Mirror," dealing with current affairs. In 1930 the "March of Events" was added, in co-operation with the "World's Work." These magazines have proved popular with the blind, and others are needed.

In 1929 the Braille Institute of America was incorporated under the laws of California, to finance reading matter for the blind, through an endowment fund, deposited under a trust, with a strong financial institution. The Braille press is now the manufacturing department of the Institute, both being operated on a non-profit basis.

The magazines published by the Braille Institute are read by blind subscribers all over the United States, and by many blind readers in foreign countries as well. The Braille books published by this institution are deposited in libraries over the whole country, and also other lands.

So the work of the Braille Institute of America is broadly national, and international, in the interests of blind persons everywhere, and is non-sectarian, and truly humanitarian.

Visitors are always welcome at the Braille Institute, and its printing plant, 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles—telephone OLYMPIA 1121. The story of these institutions, told more fully, will be mailed to any reader who asks for it.

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James H. Collins, Editor

J. Robert Atkinson, Associate Editor

Jerry M. Nesbitt, Business Manager

VOL. 4

APRIL, 1932

NO. 2

A Strange Country

By JAMES H. COLLINS

WHEN H. G. Wells was purely a romancer, he wrote a tale about a hidden Country of the Blind, where the people had never known sight. By chance, a sighted stranger penetrated this country, and proceeded to test the proverb, "In a country of the blind a one-eyed man is king."

But it soon turned out that he was a badly handicapped man.

These isolated people had developed hearing, touch and smell to degrees that made his single trained sense of sight inferior. Their world was arranged without knowledge of sight, so that they worked during the cool nights, and slept in the hot day.

When the stranger tried to rule by force, they quickly combined and conquered him. When he tried to establish his superiority by telling them he could "see," they gravely discussed his claims, and decided that he was either an under-developed human, a "moron," or perhaps just—cuckoo!

He fell in love with a maiden of this strange country, and its wise men ruled that he might marry her if their surgeons were first permitted to remove those abnormal organs

he called "eyes," which seemed to be the cause of his eccentricities. An operation, and marriage, might turn him into a rational human being, they maintained.

Finally, he escaped, to perish in the snows above the strange country of the blind.

* * *

Turn this story around, sighted reader, and you see every blind person as one who has accidentally blundered into a strange country of maladjustment and misunderstanding.

Apart from a slight difference in their means of perception, blind men and women are as capable as sighted persons—often more acute through special training of hearing, touch and memory.

In Mr. Wells' story, a little adjustment would have helped the sighted stranger get along very well, and introduced a new faculty into the country of the blind.

On the same principle, just a little consideration for the blind in our own strange country, and the necessary adjustments in special books, periodicals, training and opportunities, will transform the blind into human assets and happy human beings.

Regular Actors and Regular Fellows

A Pleasant Surprise for Hollywood When Blind Children Are Cast in a New Fannie Hurst Picture

By JAMES H. COLLINS

THE most sacred place in Hollywood—a sound stage. Guarded on all sides by studio police, who challenge us. But we have a magic pass-word: "We are with the blind children!"

It lets us past a dozen guards, and brings us to a battered tin door, like the back door of a pants factory, the last portal in the world at which anybody would think of saying, "Open sesame!" But it opens, and here we are, right on a Radio-Keith-Orpheum sound stage.

And it is as big as Robin Hood's barn. And very, very exclusive! You see, talkies have to be made in a quiet atmosphere, and so there are not more than fifty people in the place. When apparatus is to be shifted, about fifty more appear.

They used to muffle up the sound stage, and the actors, but now they merely put the cameras and other equipment into sound-proof booths, and a lot of noise, including the old wheezy movie music of fiddle and melodion, goes on outside the range of the microphones.

In one corner of the stage, we see a school room, with desks and everything—even flowers for Teacher. Only, it is a school for blind kiddies, and so some of the fittings are different. School is "in." The blind pupils are busy with their lessons, and Teacher is most attractive, being no less a personage than Irene Dunn. It is all so natural that you soon forget the batteries of cameras, lights and microphones aimed at this school to catch every word and wiggle.

* * *

"No, Betty, not chrysanthemums—try again," chides teacher, and blind Betty Thompson again fingers and smells a bowl of flowers. "Oh, I know—they're carnations!" she exclaims, and Teacher answers, "That's right, carnations—now you try, Jill." As blind Jill Peden walks toward the flowers on the table, a blind boy rises with a question: "Teacher, why doesn't Doctor Klauber come here any more?" The teacher catches her breath. "Why—George——" she hesitates, "you know



"Here's what we shoot tomorrow," says Mr. La Cava, reading the script to Irene Dunn, Ricardo Cortez and the blind children—from left to right they are Melba Saylo, Betty Clark, Franklin Pearson, George Binning, Ray Eleanor Kent, Betty Thompson and Jill Peden.

—Radio-Keith-Orpheum photo

Doctor Klauber is—a very busy man.” Just then Jill announces, “They’re geraniums.” Teacher echoes, wistfully, with a far-away look, “Yes—geraniums——!”

Thus, you discover that Teacher has some kind of crush on this Doctor Klauber, whoever he may be, and geraniums bring tender memories, and this is a talkie scene in rehearsal. In the finished picture it will last maybe forty seconds, just a little bitty piece. Yet it is an intelligible part of a story.

“Lock up!” calls the director, a huge barn door is closed, people not in the scene move back and keep quiet, the lights are turned up full glare, the noiseless motors start, and the scene is played to the cameras and microphones with such briskness that you would never suspect all the actors of being amateurs, except one.

Yet only Miss Dunn is a professional. The boys and girls in this make-believe school are all children from a Los Angeles public school where the blind are taught.

“A Symphony in Six Million” is the picture, from a story by Fannie Hurst. When it was cast, R-K-O asked the counsel of the Braille Institute of America in selecting blind children for the school room scenes, and technical supervision of the special apparatus needed as “props.” After screen tests, eight children were chosen—Betty Clarke, Betty Thompson, Jill Peden, Ray Eleanor Kent, Melba Saylo, George Binning, Ward Roberts and Franklin Pearson. The children played their parts in their everyday clothes, and were practically at school, except George Binning. George had some real acting in scenes with Miss Dunn and Ricardo Cortez, who played Doctor Klauber. About the time this article appears, you will be able to see the film in R-K-O theatres.

* * *

“I had some misgivings about the blind children—before they came,” confessed Gregory La Cava, who directed the picture. “It seemed as though this was a depressing episode, which we would have to pass over as lightly as possible.

“But the children changed all that! They proved to be regular little men and women, absolutely normal in everything except sight, and interesting to work with every minute they were here.”

If Mr. La Cava had misgivings, how about a blind kid’s misgivings over a movie director, with puttees and megaphone?

Let us pause, and give Mr. La Cava an even break.

Maybe there are movin’ pitcher directors who still bark orders through a pasteboard trumpet, but he is not the type. When you meet him, you look at his ears, to see if they are pointed. That would show fairy blood. If Peter Pan had grown up, and come to Hollywood to direct pictures, he would be like Mr. La Cava, who has the same spirit of adventure, and seems to expect Captain Hook to come around the corner any minute.

“It has done me good to work with them,” he added, “and I’ll miss them when we are through with those scenes. Our first instinct, when we hear about the blind, is to pity them, but that’s a mistake. Pity won’t help them, and these blind girls and boys certainly do not feel sorry for themselves. They do not want sympathy, but a chance to show what they can do in a normal world. They have been quick to catch the spirit of every scene, and free from self-consciousness in acting their parts, and I am just going to miss them, that’s all!”

And in the very next scene that was taken, the blind children showed how quick they could be, because it was a scene in which the school janitor appears with his pail and mop, and Miss Dunn says, “You’re early, Bill—come back in half an hour,” and in taking it over and over, as a whole, and in parts, she once called the janitor “George,” and the blind children corrected her instantly, in chorus, as soon as the cameras stopped. And what a laugh there was when George called the star “Irene,” which was maybe a breach of manners, and maybe a tribute to her friendliness.

You would certainly have found a “kick” in going along with the blind kids to see their “rushes.” Those are the scenes taken the day before, and they crowded into a little theatre, and listened for their own voices, and one would protest, “Aw—I don’t sound like that!” and the others would insist, “Yes, that’s just the way you spoke.” For it is a disheartening experience to hear yourself speak for the first time, as you can discover by talking into a dictaphone.

Make a note to see “A Symphony in Six Million.”

Because, now you know some of the actors!

Problem—Find a Career For This Boy

**Blind, in the Wilderness, No School Until 17—
What Can He Do? Prescribe—and See What He Did**

By **CARLYLE HOADLEY**

HERE'S a new game. Let us call it "Careers"—or maybe "Obstacles"—would be just as good a name. And we play it this way:

I will give you the facts about Remi Deranleau's life. Then you can plan a career for him. Imagine yourself in his place, if you want to, and tell yourself what you would do. Then I will tell you what Remi Deranleau made out of his own facts.

Today, at sixty-six, after a life spent in country neighborhoods, and beginning in hard pioneer days, Remi Deranleau has interesting work, and hundreds of friends, has earned sufficient to make himself independent, and has enough cheerfulness and courage to divide with others, besides a keen interest in current affairs, books and life around him. How little he had to start with, you may judge from the facts:

Back in the early 1870's, when Minnesota was Indian country, a French-Canadian forester moved to that edge of civilization, bringing a little blind son, who was Remi Deranleau, born in 1866. At three, the little boy had lost his eyesight from smallpox, which also left him with a shrunken right arm.

Other children came—a brother and two sisters. Pere Deranleau worked hard, on his heavily timbered homestead, but lost money saved in Canada, and there was no special education for little Remi—the blind boy did not have a chance to

go to school at all until he was seventeen.

Remi had no playmates except his brother and sisters. He grew up speaking another language than that of the pioneer community, for French was used at home. Even before he learned to read

the crude raised letter books of that day, he had discovered that his interests were intellectual—but how was he to use a keen thinking brain to make a living in such a community? Worse yet—but ultimately better—he discovered that he loved music, and music was something that played a very small part in the Northwest frontier a half-century ago.

Today, such a child would enjoy the best music by radio, which would also do much to feed his mind. He would benefit by special education. He would have access to Braille libraries. He could profit by the advances that the ambitious blind themselves

have made in the past generation. He would find that the world now utilizes many different kinds of talent.

But fifty years ago, the problem was very different.

What would have been your advice to this blind boy?

* * *

"When I entered school at Fairbault," says Remi Deranleau himself, "I was about seventeen, and knew only a few words of the English language. I thought about helping my parents, because by that time father was blind. I asked the



Remi Deranleau ready for the road with his tuning kit and his wife.

brightest scholars for advice, and asked what has become of bright students who had gone out in the world, and they seldom lived up to the promise of their school days.

"This made me sad for a while, but I would think, 'Don't give up! If you do, you are lost!' And it has been the thoughts in my mind that have helped me, and my faith in God's help when my trials seemed beyond my strength. I never let a day pass without having some beautiful thoughts."

Remi's first job was in a music store, where he learned to tune pianos, and forty years ago he moved to Rapid City, South Dakota Territory, and ever since he has tuned the pianos for miles around, and played the violin, and given music lessons: At first, it was hard, because there were few pianos. He traveled on stage coaches, or was passed from one family to another, in wagons, on horseback, any way to get there! as he puts it. When he reached a town, his fiddle would come out, and he would play a few tunes for "advertising," and then a dance would be organized, one of the few amusements known to the settlers.

But it was hard. Because, at times, he would travel a week and earn only a dollar or two. Once, his receipts for forty days were only four dollars.

However, tuning pianos was only one of his services, because he also tuned people while he worked on their pianos. "Keeping people in harmony," he called that. In those days, even as now, people thought they had problems, in that rough pioneer country. But the sight of the blind piano tuner, and his cheerful optimism, and the thought of how much he was handicapped in comparison with themselves, would cheer them up.

Even when his means were limited, Mr. Deranleau managed to buy or borrow Braille books, and keep up with the world, so that he brought intellectual wares as well as a cheerful philosophy. His customers soon became his friends, and to this day there are families who have let nobody else touch their pianos, and who look to the coming of the blind piano tuner as a visit from an old friend.

* * *

By and by, his work was made easier by the development of the frontier, and through the aid of a loyal helper—he married, and bought a team of horses, and his wife drove him on his long journeys, 150 miles around Rapid City,

through rain, snow and blizzards. At present, he travels by automobile with Mr. Swift, a piano salesman, and their work fits nicely together.

"And at times when I feel depressed," says Mr. Swift, "I think of what my blind companion has accomplished in the world, and am ashamed of myself."

Last year, which was not a good year, he tuned 600 pianos, and for fifteen years he has averaged from 600 to 700 a year. In this time, he has traveled 20,000 to 25,000 miles a year, and been a diligent reader of Braille books and magazines, and learned typewriting, and improved his French—he still likes to read French. In the course of the years he has acquired renting property in his home city, and he sometimes talks about retiring when he reaches seventy. But his friends say that his activity will then lead him to postpone it.

"I often say to myself that I will never give up until I am called beyond," he writes. "I have no fear of the future years. I expect to have many and some perverse tests. But I expect to come out winner every time. If not, I will stand my ground, and meet the next trial with the determination to win—or if I don't, I can keep on hoping to win!"



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Red Cross Reading For The Blind

Drawn Into Braille During the War, This Organization Still Embosses Special Material

By G. E. WILTON

LAST summer, a blind Japanese came to the Braille Institute of America, and asked the cost of making Braille copies of two books that he reads and loves.

"Only one copy of each will be sufficient," he said. But the cost for one copy of a press-print Braille book, from plates, would be prohibitive—almost as much as for a regular edition. This was explained to the visitor, Rev. Tetsutaro Kumagae, a delegate to the World Conference on Work for the Blind, and now a student at Drew University. Mr. Kumagae is an English scholar, and reads English Braille with ease.

Fortunately, there was another way to help him get his cherished books—by bringing his need to the attention of the American Red Cross. Since 1918, when it was necessary to provide reading for blinded soldiers of the World War, the Red Cross, in co-operation with the Library of Congress, has organized a great corps of volunteer Brailleists, among its members, who transcribe single copies of books and other reading matter for the use of blind readers and students.

Miss Margaret Barnard, executive secretary of the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Red Cross, was greatly interested in Mr. Kumagae's desire to have copies of these two books, and volunteer Brailleists in the local chapter made copies, the Braille Institute undertaking the binding as its contribution. One book, "The Idea of God," by Seth Pringle Pattinson, made ten volumes in Braille, and the other, "Jesus Christ and the Human Quest," by Edwin Lewis, ran to eight volumes. The binding alone cost several times as much as ink-print copies, because the Red Cross transcriptions were written on single leaves, instead of being in folded folios, as are press-printed books, and so the volumes had to be bound leaf by leaf. Under the policy of the Red Cross, these volumes go into American libraries when Mr. Kumagae returns to Japan.

* * *

More than 250 chapters of the American Red Cross are now "Organized for Braille," and during the fiscal year 1931 they

produced 653 titles, or specially transcribed books, articles and so forth, aggregating 2,647 volumes, 247,708 pages.

To be "Organized for Braille" is no light undertaking. Sighted members of the Red Cross must fit themselves, by special study and practice, to copy ink-print reading matter in Braille, either on the typewriter or the Braille slate. Before members are entrusted with this work, they must qualify as "certified Brailleists." Their work must also be read and corrected by proofreaders, and for this, blind persons alone are employed, and paid, and special training is necessary in this work. All other Braille work is on the volunteer basis. Something like \$10,000 a year is paid to blind proofreaders.

At first, this hand-copied material was prepared chiefly for the blind soldiers in the Government training school "Evergreen," near Baltimore. In 1925 that school was closed and the soldiers returned to their homes. So reading matter had to be supplied to them through public libraries over the whole country. As they returned to civilian life, and took up various kinds of work, a demand arose for special books and articles dealing with business and professions. A new demand arose from civilian blind, and the activities



A Red Cross Brailleist at her work

—Braille Institute photo

expanded, and at the same time developed along lines that avoided duplication of books popular enough to warrant Braille press printing in regular editions.

Today these Braille activities are directed from Washington by Miss Adelia M. Hoyt, who is acting director of Braille for the Red Cross, and also assistant in the Library of Congress service for the blind. Miss Mabel T. Boardman, director of the Red Cross volunteer service, is keenly interested in the development of the Braille organization.

* * *

Much care is taken in the selection of material to be Brailled. A book committee receives suggestions for titles, which may be sent in by anybody who wants Braille reading matter. Many suggestions come from the blind, and others from librarians serving the blind.

First, the decision to copy a given book in Braille is made if it is not popular enough to be printed in a regular Braille edition. Then, the educational, cultural and recreational character of the book is weighed, and its appeal to more than one reader, because where books entail considerable work and expense, they remain public property, and are placed in a library after the first reader has done with them.

Many out-of-the-way requests and suggestions are received, showing that the blind are interested in, and actually following, almost every occupation of the sighted: A salesman wants a special instruction manual copied in Braille; a practising osteopath wants some articles from a professional periodical; an office man wants a filing manual; a scholar wants Homer in Greek Braille; the students in a school for the blind ask for special lesson texts; a blind business man needs a work on some special field of business law.

All titles are checked at national headquarters, to avoid duplication, and when a chapter has been assigned the work of transcribing, its volunteer Brailleists are given first, second and third choice of work. They may have special knowledge which fits them for the copying of a certain work. In some cases, a single Brailleist copies an entire book, while, again, the transcribing is divided among a number of Brailleists, when timeliness enters into the project. The demand is so great that

Brailleists always find a waiting list of books which have been chosen for transcribing.

Beginning with rehabilitation of the blinded soldiers, these activities have put into the hands of general Braille readers much material which would not otherwise have been available to them. Red Cross Braille helps blinded men and women fit themselves for business careers, and aids them in keeping up with work that they are already engaged in. It helps blind children in their education, and with further experience, the Red Cross organization will undoubtedly develop fields in which such service is badly needed, as in the difficult work of transcribing the latest popular music for blind musicians.

Also, Red Cross Braille activities have helped along the better acquaintance of sighted people with blind people, for the Brailleists who volunteer for this work soon come to know the blind by discovering their needs, tastes and ambitions. And the public has discovered the blind as readers and students, instead of as beggars, and extends to them the helping hand of friendship instead of cold charity.

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We Also Have Our Five-Year Plan

How the Great Humanitarian Work of the Braille Institute Is Geared to the Years Ahead

THE Braille Institute of America, Inc., is an expansion of the activity started in Los Angeles, California, in 1920 under the name Universal Braille Press, now the trade name of the Institute's printing department. Launched in 1929, on the 100th anniversary of the Braille system of printing for the blind, it stands as a memorial to Louis Braille, founder of that system.

In creating the Braille Institute, the endeavor has been, first to establish a sound, nation-wide channel through which a liberal supply of good literature for the blind may flow freely to them direct, or through the libraries conducting lending departments of books for the blind; second, to create an organization to which philanthropists, inspired to help in this field, may feel secure in leaving bequests; third to influence and assist in the passage of State and Federal legislation of a humanitarian nature designed to promote the social, cultural, and industrial welfare of the blind that they may become self-supporting resourceful citizens; fourth, to give the blind readers of the United States the same variety of good reading matter liberally supplied by the press and public library system to persons with normal eyesight.

In addition to extending the activities started by the Universal Braille Press, the Institute is co-operating with other organizations, societies and individuals engaged in promoting the welfare of the blind. Operating on this basis, nationwide in scope, non-profit and non-sectarian in policy, devoted primarily to the literary culture of the blind, without respect to persons, class or community, the Institute is meeting a long felt need.

Honorary memberships are conferred upon librarians, constituting them a Publication Committee vested with authority in selecting literature to be published by the Institute.

Blind readers throughout the nation are also given a voice in the selection of reading matter, a franchise never before enjoyed by them.

Although with a background of nearly ten years experience in the publishing and distributing of literature for the blind

through the activities carried on by the Universal Braille Press, very little had been done in setting up the necessary machinery for the establishment of an organization of a permanent nature which the public might regard as an institution worthy of endowments.

In the ten years before the Institute was incorporated, its founder, Mr. Atkinson, working almost alone, was too busily engaged in actual service to the blind, and funds at his disposal were too limited to employ the help to assist him in building an organization with the necessary machinery for publicity essential to this end. In those ten years, thousands and thousands of volumes, and millions of printed pages had been printed and distributed to the blind, with limited funds.

Foreseeing the immediate need of generous gifts and endowments, in order that the Institute may fulfill its objective, the trustees, at an adjourned regular session on July 13, 1931, voted unanimously to launch immediately a five-year, one million dollar expansion program. Sixty cents of every dollar raised, or \$600,000 of the one million dollars to be raised, will be placed in trust as a permanent endowment fund administered by a reputable banking institution. The remaining forty cents of every dollar raised is to be used primarily to promote four publishing projects:

1. To finance the cost of publishing Funk & Wagnalls' Desk Standard Dictionary in Braille that it may be marketed to the blind at a reasonable price.
2. To subsidize secular magazines, including a women's magazine, and to provide a fund for free subscriptions.
3. To sponsor each year several good books free to libraries throughout the nation.
4. To increase the Institute's music publishing activities for blind professional musicians.

This five-year plan of the Institute has received the unqualified endorsement of the Los Angeles Department of Social Service, an official bureau of the city government which thoroughly investigates all fund-raising projects. This endorsement practically guarantees that the cause is worthy.

Braille Bible Need Greater Than Ever

Seven Years Service Rounded Out at Yearly Meeting of Members Braille Bible Society

COMPLETING its first cycle of seven years of service as a Society in supplying Scriptures to the blind, the Braille Bible Society, Inc., with headquarters at 739 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California, now enters its eighth year of activity with a quickened sense of the service to be rendered. This Bible activity really began in 1920, but it was not until February, 1924, that the first edition of the Braille Bible was completed, and the organization came into existence the following year.

During these seven years, thousands of volumes of the King James version in revised Braille, Grade One and a Half, have been distributed free to the blind readers all over the world, or at prices representing scarcely 25 per cent of the actual publishing cost.

The term "Revised Braille, Grade One and a Half," is the name given to the code form officially adopted in America, in 1918, as the standard system for the English reading blind, and the Society has the distinction of printing the first King James version of the Bible in that form.

Annual Meeting of Members

On February 25th, the Society held its annual meeting of members in the office of the corporation, for the election of directors for the ensuing year, and to review the activities of the preceding calendar year. One hundred and seven members attended the meeting in person, and by proxy, which is a very good attendance, considering the fact that its membership embraces the whole English reading world.

The balloting resulted in the re-election of the directors who had served since July, 1931, when the Society was re-organized. They are: J. Robert Atkinson, Thomas H. Bond, Irvin C. Bruss, Dan E. Crowley, Otto A. Gerth, Herman O. Meyer, and John W. Tapley. At the time this article is being prepared, the board has not organized, and it is therefore not possible to give the names of the officers for the ensuing year.

Bible Distribution

The Society's direct service to the blind in supplying Bibles free, or at prices

they are able to pay, was greater in 1931 than any previous year. Of the yearly distribution, 187 volumes were given free to an aggregate of 45 persons, living in all parts of the English reading world. The remainder was marketed at fifty cents or one dollar a volume, which is much below the non profit publishing cost.

What this service has meant to the blind recipients is reflected in the following extracts from a few of many similar letters received each month by the Society:

I just wish I could tell you how much I appreciate your kindness in sending me the three volumes of the Old Testament in Braille. These will be a great help to me in the Sunday School work here in which institution I am a teacher.

C. A., Vienna, Virginia.

For many years I have wanted a Bible, but have been unable to get one, as they are so costly. I read in "The Lutheran Messenger for the Blind," that you have a number of these Bibles to give to those who are unable to pay for them. I have six children to teach, and without a Bible it is rather difficult. I especially want the New Testament, but would be very glad to have some or all of the old one too. Thanking you in advance.

Mrs. O. G., Stirum, N. Dak.

(The complete New Testament was immediately sent to the above free of charge, and the following reply was received:)

I received the lovely volumes you sent me. I have no words with which to express my gratitude and appreciation for them.

I will certainly be glad to receive volumes of the Old Testament also, and at any time when I can afford it, I shall be glad to pay for these books. Once more I thank you for your kindness.

Mrs. O. G., Stirum, N. Dak.

Ever since I read of the low prices on the Braille Bible I have been trying to get money, so that I could have one. But as I am being supported by my people, and they cannot give the money to me, so I am asking you for the kind favor.

I am both deaf and blind, and it is not very easy for me to earn my living. While at school I read the Bible daily. But as Mother could not buy one for me, I have missed it awful bad.

If it is my luck I should be very happy if you could please send me the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. I should like the books to be in two-side printing as I do not care much for the one-side printing. I wish for the King James version. If I had these four gospels, it would cheer me a lot.

Miss E. Z. B., Olean, N. Y.

(The four gospels were immediately sent to Miss E. Z. B.)

(Continued on Page 12)

Low Prices Still Prevail

Several years ago, the Society offered Braille Bibles at the special price of \$1 a volume for the King James version printed on both sides of the paper. This price still prevails, although the ultimate goal is Bibles to the blind at the same price charged for good Bibles in ordinary type, somewhere in the neighborhood of \$5 or \$7 per Bible in twenty-one Braille volumes. The stock of Braille Bibles printed on one side of the paper is being closed out at the special price of fifty cents a volume, and many of the blind are taking advantage of this low rate.

Publicity

Over fifteen thousand pieces of literature were mailed during the year to individuals and Protestant churches throughout the English reading world. This mailing, for the most part, was done in the months of September and October, the response to which is still being realized helpfully. In addition, the publicity appearing in each issue of this magazine has also proved very beneficial to the Society.

Two open-house receptions were held during the year. The object of these receptions is primarily to demonstrate to the public how Braille Bibles are printed, and read by the blind, and what the blind can do towards supporting themselves when successfully trained. More than 300 persons attended the two receptions. Other guests, aggregating 257, visited the Society's office and printing department, and went away inspired to help, and many new members have been enrolled during the year.

Everywhere, the thought is being awakened to the need of the blind for Braille Bibles, as gifts or at prices they are able to pay, and this awakening will no doubt go on until the activity of supplying Bibles to the blind will no longer be hampered from lack of support, as it has been in the past.

A certified audit of the Society's books for the calendar year 1931 was presented to the meeting. Reflecting the activities item by item, this audit would well form the foundation for an interesting story on service to the blind, if space permitted.

The demand for Braille Bibles is steadily increasing, and contributions of any amount in support of this noble work are very much needed. Such contributions should be addressed to: **Braille Bible Society, Inc., 739 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.**

A Broad Welfare Program

Teaching, Placement, Library and Legal Service Planned by Institute for Adult Blind

Almost daily, the Braille Institute of America is called upon for aid and counsel in the placement of blind graduates of schools and training institutions. These blind and blinded people bring us social, industrial, cultural and professional problems, connected with their economic advancement.

To meet this great need, new activities have been planned for the Braille Institute of America, in addition to its primary work of publishing Braille literature for national distribution.

At the recent meeting of members, a resolution was passed approving three projects of state-wide scope, as follows:

1. A bureau of vocational guidance and placement, to assist blind adults in choosing a trade, profession or business suitable to their talents; to award free scholarships for vocational and higher education in branches found practical for the blind; to make recommendations to the bureau of rehabilitation, under the State Board of Education, for the proper training of the blind; to assist them in finding employment or business locations, and to finance them by loans until established.
2. A free circulating reference library for the student blind, and blind business men and women, containing business journals, and books on all vocations, trades and professions followed by the blind, especially fire and life insurance, common law, business ethics, social and political economy, salesmanship, journalism, and like subjects.
3. A department of home teaching, with the reference library, teaching the adult blind to read and write Braille, and to master other subjects conducive to their success, not taught by city, county, state or private agencies. Since ninety per cent of the blind lose their sight after reaching mature life, and are barred from the schools, the need for this home teaching is obvious.

This is a broad and ambitious program, and its full realization must depend upon adequate financial support. Yet it can be carried out, and it will be carried out, step by step, as means are available. For an immediate beginning, the free circulating reference library is already being organized, and we hope to have early announcements of other much-needed services for the blind of California.

For Stands Run by the Blind in Federal Buildings

Again, in the new session of Congress, bills have been introduced to permit the operation of stands by blind persons in Federal buildings for the sale of papers, magazines and other articles. If approved by law, thousands of capable blind persons would thus find a means of livelihood.

Friends of the blind are urged to write their Senators and Congressmen in support of House Bill No. 6658, introduced by Representative Charles A. Martin, of Oregon, and Senate Bill No. 3038, introduced by blind Senator Thomas D. Schall, of Minnesota. These bills were prepared by Edward C. Robbins, the blind journalist of Portland, Oregon, president of the recently-formed Western Foundation of the Blind, Inc., Portland, and an active worker for the blind.

It is proposed to organize a Bureau of Welfare of the Blind in the Department of Labor, under a director and staff, to issue licenses to blind persons for operating the stands in postoffices and other Federal buildings, and also to co-operate with organizations for placing blind persons in similar business in state, county and city buildings over the country.

The new bills in the 72nd Congress meet objections which were raised against previous bills, and deal with an opportunity for employment of the blind in a way that is fair to the public and helpful to thousands of blind persons capable of becoming self-supporting.

1932—Year of Rackets!

Among other things, 1932 may go down in history as a "Year of Rackets." Unemployment has brought out countless unworthy charity schemes. In California, "rackets" are springing up around the Olympic Games.

This is a year for all sincere people to make sure that money is used efficiently, for the purposes donated.

Los Angeles goes further than many other communities in protecting the public, and worthy causes, through its City Department of Social Service. Under Commissioner Thomas A. I. Dockweiler, assisted by Mrs. Anna B. Smith, general manager, and Major W. J. Fitzmaurice, investigator, this department investigates and approves properly managed philanthropic organizations, and warns the pub-

lic against unworthy causes and frauds. The Braille Institute of America has been approved by this city department, after a thorough investigation.

Do not heed telephone solicitations. Investigate always before you contribute. Read the information card which all solicitors must carry under city law. Do not give in the street, or at your door. Do not lend your name to any causes without investigation. Do not stop giving because there are unworthy causes—investigate and give to the worthy and needy ones.

New Religious Magazine for the Blind

A NEW religious magazine in Braille, free to blind readers, is to be issued monthly by the John Milton Foundation, New York City.

It will contain Bible or Sunday school lessons, and religious articles, some original, but chiefly reprinted matter from religious publications for sighted people.

The editors for the first year are Dr. James H. Snowden, author of the widely-used "Snowden's Lessons," and the Rev. Drs. L. H. Bugbee (Methodist), C. A. Hauser (Reformed) and Hight C. Moore (Southern Baptist), each editor-in-chief of Sunday school lessons for his denomination.

Such a magazine will do for the Protestant churches what is already being done for blind Roman Catholics, Hebrews and others. Protestant boards of publication will meet costs. Inquiries concerning the magazine should be addressed to the Honorary Secretary of the John Milton Foundation, Rev. Lewis B. Chamberlain, 390 Bible House, Astor Place, New York City.

The John Milton Foundation is sponsored by the International Council of Religious Education, and the Councils of Home Missions, as well as having such representatives of the blind as Helen Keller, H. Randolph Latimer, Miss Lydia Y. Haves and Prof. William A. Hadley.

Mr. Chamberlain is Recording Secretary of the American Bible Society. Mr. Latimer is Executive Secretary of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, and a veteran worker for the blind. Mr. Hadley is the founder and principal of the Hadley Correspondence School for the Blind. Miss Hayes is New Jersey State Home Teacher for the Blind.

Robbins Loves Writing—And Humanity

**An Oregon Advocate of Postoffice Sales
Stands for the Blind—Himself Blind at 18**

IF Uncle Sam decides to allow blind men and women to operate sales stands in postoffices and other Federal Buildings, by passing bills now before Congress, the blind may thank a blind friend and champion for originating this movement, and working whole-heartedly to get it before Congress.



Edward C. Robbins

Edward C. Robbins is the young champion, and just as he was getting started in life, his eyesight began to fail, making it necessary to re-educate himself, and plan an entirely new career.

Mr. Robbins was born in Portland, Oregon, in 1901, graduated from grammar school, and spent a year in high school, as well as more than a year in the telegraph department of the Northern Pacific Railway, during the World War, when the railroads were under the United States Railway Administration.

In 1918, before he was seventeen, his sight began to fail, and for more than a year he was under medical care, undergoing three eye operations, including the famous "Elliott tree." In the fall of 1919 his sight gone at eighteen, he entered the Oregon State School for the Blind, at Salem, to master Braille, and learn how to readjust himself to his handicap. He was graduated from the tenth and highest grade in June, 1920, and remained to graduate as a piano tuner a year later.

From there, he went to the Oregon Institute of Technology, owned and operated by the Portland Y. M. C. A., majored in journalism, entered the Oregon School of Journalism in the fall of 1922, and after his four-year course, became a reporter for the Portland "Daily Telegram."

Even in grammar school, Robbins had been interested in writing, and in the welfare of humanity. He says that "a true journalist is always interested in the welfare of humanity." So, it has been natural for him, while working as a newspaper

man, to pay attention to the welfare of that section of humanity to which he himself belongs—the blind.

This led him to prepare the bills establishing sales stands for the blind in Federal Buildings; to interest Congressmen and Senators in his project; to stand up and take defeat, and again introduce his bills in improved form.

It also led him to advocate, and put through the Oregon legislature single-handed, a \$500 yearly appropriation for reading and state aid for blind students in Oregon. He formed and served as executive vice president of the now defunct Oregon Welfare Organization for the Blind, which, as he puts it, cheerfully, "went the way of all organizations going into politics," and he later formed, and is now president of, the Western Foundation of the Blind, Inc., of Portland, whose membership is made up of self-supporting sightless people in that state. This organization is behind the bills for Federal sales stands.

Among Mr. Robbins' close friends are two blind journalists who have been helpful and inspiring to him—B. F. Irvine, editor in chief of the Oregon "Journal," largest afternoon daily in the Pacific Northwest, and Frank Edgecombe, editor and publisher of the Nebraska "Weekly Signal."

Mr. Robbins' love of journalism is strong enough to give him the ambition of owning a country weekly newspaper somewhere on the Pacific Coast, and as soon as he is able to finance the purchase of one, he means to settle down and utilize his experience as a reporter, editor, manager and publisher.

Many blind persons in Europe are interested in Esperanto, the world language, as a means of increasing their contacts, and a Braille magazine, "Esperanta Ligilo," is published for blind Esperantists.

Blindness is very prevalent in the Orient, especially India and Turkey, 1.5 per thousand population in India, and in some districts as high as 4.38. The economic loss to India is estimated at \$65,000,000 yearly.

1931 Reviewed At Yearly Meeting

Five-Year Plan, A New Magazine, Many Good Books for Blind Among Year's Accomplishments

The annual report of the trustees covered the activities of the Institute from the date of its incorporation, September, 1929, to December, 1931, and showed much progress. Among the outstanding achievements during this period of time that may be credited to the Institute, and cited as rare contributions towards the fulfillment of its objective are:

1. Initiation of the move for a Federal appropriation for the adult blind in the introduction of the Crail Bill. Although the bill which finally passed in the closing days of the 71st Congress, making available \$100,000 a year for the literary advancement of the blind, was not the specific bill introduced by the Braille Institute, yet the Institute rightly deserves the credit for that legislation, as no other agency had ever made an effort to secure a Federal appropriation for the adult blind until the Braille Institute initiated the move.

2. The publication of all the booklets in the Reading With A Purpose courses recommended by the American Library Association, 43 in number, which had not previously been printed on other presses. One set of these booklets was supplied free to each of the regional libraries lending books for the blind. Since their publication, the Institute has sponsored several of the works recommended.

3. The launching, in January, 1931, of "March of Events," a monthly magazine made up entirely of editorials and leading articles reprinted from "World's Work" magazine, copy for which is released in advance by Doubleday, Doran & Co., so that the Braille issue reaches blind readers at the same time each month as the "World's Work."

4. The establishment of a department of public relations.

5. The launching in July of a "Five-year one million dollar endowment and expansion program," \$600,000 of which will be placed in trust as a permanent endowment. The remaining \$400,000 will be used in the sponsorship of books and

magazines which are to be issued free to the blind or at prices below the publishing cost, and particularly to reprint in Braille Funk & Wagnalls' Desk Standard Dictionary, and in time the issuance of a woman's monthly magazine in Braille.

6. The taking over of the publication of "The Braille Mirror" launched originally in 1926 by the Universal Braille Press.

An audit of the Institute's books by Brown & Wright, certified public accountants, from September, 1929, to December, 1931, showed among other things that the Institute had sponsored books and magazines to the amount of \$20,544.25.

New Books for the Blind

(The following books all sponsored by the Library of Congress.)

Only Yesterday—An Informal History of the 1920's, by Frederick Lewis Allen, 3 vols., cost \$10.36, selling price \$9.90.

Ice in Egypt, by A. M. McCrindle, 2 vols., cost \$6.43, selling price \$4.75.

English Synonyms, Antonyms and Prepositions, by James C. Fernald, 9 vols., cost \$34.88, selling price \$26.13.

The Last American Frontier, by Frederic Logan Paxson, 3 vols., in press, selling price \$8.80.

Ninety-Three, by Victor Hugo, 4 vols., in press, selling price \$12.15.

Andrew John, Plebian and Patriot, by Robert Watson Winston, 6 vols., in press, selling price \$17.40.

Our Forerunners, by M. C. Burkitt, 2 vols., in press, selling price \$4.25.

The Scarlet Letter, by Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2 vols., in press, selling price \$6.50.

The Human Body, by Logan Clendening, 4 vols., in press, selling price \$10.25.

Patrick Henry, by George Morgan, 5 vols., in press, selling price \$13.40.

A Preface to Morals, by Walter Lippmann, 3 vols., in press, selling price \$7.50.

The Story of San Michele, by Axel Munthe, 3 vols., in press, selling price \$7.75.

Newspaper Writing and Editing, by Willard G. Bleyer, 4 vols., in press, selling price \$10.40.

Take a Minute To Tune-in On My Mail!

Many a Human Story the Blind Readers of Our
Braille Magazines Tell Our Subscription Man



BROTHER, I wish you could sit in here at my desk, some morning, and read my mail. Even if you had to have some of the letters interpreted for you, because they are

in Braille—which is my own case.

These letters come from the blind readers of our two magazines, and you'd soon wake up to the fact that blind people are as much interested in the world's affairs as any equal number of sighted people. And a good deal more appreciative of anything that is done for them. And helpful to one another—say, read this extract from the letter of a blind subscriber, a woman in Rhode Island:

I am not sure whether or not I have told you that I send my magazine, after reading it, to a blind friend in a small town in New York State. After she reads it, she sends it to a blind leper in the Philippines.

I wish to congratulate the Braille Institute of America on its ambitious program, and wish it every possible success. I sincerely hope that, as you add more contractions in printing the "Braille Mirror," you will not ignore syllable divisions, and that you will retain the capital sign.

Nearly every letter from our readers gives opinions like that about the way we print the magazines, and I'll tell you about these "contractions" in a minute—they are interesting. But first read another letter from a blind subscriber in Kansas City who is feeling the effects of the depression:

Owing to present conditions, I find it impossible for me to pay my subscription to the "Mirror" at this time, and I don't know just when. You may know that I am hard of hearing, and that makes it next to impossible for me to secure evangelistic work any longer. And the demands of a modern church make it next to impossible for me to hold a pastorate. But thanks be to God for the Braille system, I can still read my Bible, good books and magazines. I would hardly know what to do without the "Mirror," as I have been a reader from its very first number. And I had expected to subscribe for "The March of Events" before this. But that is out of the question now. If you will send me a sample copy of "Light," I will try and interest some of the people here in it, and perhaps I can work out my "Mirror" subscription, and also one for the "March of Events" for this year, as well.

Now as to the type question: I like Grade 2, as it is a space saver, and can be read faster. I wish that you would publish Moffatt's translation or the recent "Americanized" translation of the Bible in Grade 2 in the same splendid manner in which you have published the King James version in Grade 1½. I believe that such a work would be very helpful to all Bible students in Braille-land.

* * *

What they mean by the type question, Grade 2 and Grade 1½ is that Braille reading matter is sometimes abbreviated for accomplished readers.

You see, there are three ways of printing Braille. Grade 1 is spelled out in full, Grade 2 is considerably contracted, and Grade 3 is very much contracted. When Braille was adopted for the blind in the United States, we began with Grade 1, as easiest for everybody to read. But with time, many bright readers have developed, and so in our magazines we began to print some articles in Grade 2. Many readers liked this, but some found it difficult to understand. So now we have adopted a Grade 1½, with fewer contractions than Grade 2, and some of our articles are printed in that, and our blind readers seldom write us without expressing their views on this subject.

You see, if we could print everything in Grade 2, or even in Grade 1½, it would mean a lot more reading matter on a page—and reading matter to blind people is much more valuable than to sighted folks. They count every dollar's worth, almost the number of words on every page.

* * *

If we hadn't started LIGHT last year, so sighted people could get a magazine, and at the same time give a Braille magazine to some blind reader unable to pay, I don't know what our Braille subscription lists would look like now. The blind have been hard hit.

If you haven't sent in your three dollars for LIGHT, plus a lot of good reading for some needy blind reader, I'd like to hear from you right away. Here is one way to end a little piece of the depression.

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LIGHT



"JUST BROWSING AROUND"

These blind girls are exploring a library of Braille books given by Lions' Clubs to the sightless people of the United States (See Page 12).

Braille Institute photo

JUNE-JULY, 1932



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"Get an open boat, so we can look around," said the blind children. How the blind "see" scenery—article on Page 6.

Braille Institute photo

Contents for July 15, 1932

The Sixth Sense—Editorial	3
A Sightless Dictaphone Operator, by Kate M. Foley	4
Seeing Pictures Without Optics, by J. Robert Atkinson	6
He's a Blind Data Hound, by James H. Collins	8
The Lions' Splendid Work for the Blind	10
A Few Words on a Live Topic	11
Blind and Deaf—And a Baseball Fan! by Carlyle Hoadley	12
Printing Centenary for the Blind	14
New Books for the Blind	15
The Braille Institute—What, Why, How	16
A Worker for the Blind of Japan	17
To See—Or Not to See, by Herbert Stanton Marshutz	18
Seen With Half an Eye	19
What Blind People Saw in a Museum	20

The Story of the Braille Institute

I N 1912, a Montana cowboy lost his sight by accident, almost instantly. Always a reader, he mastered Braille, and then looked around for books that would help him to a business education. Nobody was publishing such books, nor did the blind have magazines to keep them posted on the world's affairs.

Starting in a garage back of his Los Angeles home, in 1920, J. Robert Atkinson made a beginning with the Universal Braille Press, printing books on machinery partly of his own invention. Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear, philanthropists aided him financially.

In 1926 he started the first secular Braille magazine in this country, the "Braille Mirror," dealing with current affairs. In 1930 the "March of Events" was added, in co-operation with the "World's Work." These magazines have proved popular with the blind, and others are needed.

In 1929 the Braille Institute of America was incorporated under the laws of California, to finance reading matter for the blind, through an endowment fund, deposited under a trust, with a strong financial institution. The Braille press is now the manufacturing department of the Institute, both being operated on a non-profit basis.

The magazines published by the Braille Institute are read by blind subscribers all over the United States, and by many blind readers in foreign countries as well. The Braille books published by this institution are deposited in libraries over the whole country, and also other lands.

So the work of the Braille Institute of America is broadly national, and international, in the interests of blind persons everywhere, and is non-sectarian, and truly humanitarian.

Visitors are always welcome at the Braille Institute, and its printing plant, 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles—telephone OLYMPIA 1121. The story of this institution, told more fully, will be mailed to any reader who asks for it.

The Braille Institute of America, Inc.

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—See Page 11—

LIGHT

To further acquaint sighted people with the ambitions and success of the blind, and enlist aid in meeting their problem of securing good reading matter.

Published eight times a year by Braille Institute of America, Inc.
741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California

\$3 a year—every subscription turned into a free subscription for a Braille magazine to a needy blind reader

James H. Collins, Editor

J. Robert Atkinson, Associate Editor

Jerry M. Nesbitt, Business Manager

VOL. 4

JUNE-JULY, 1932

NOS. 3-4

The Sixth Sense

By JAMES H. COLLINS

IMAGINE the conductor helping you off the train, and calling, in his best All-Aboard! voice, "Here comes a blind man—get out of the way!"

Picture yourself sitting in the park. A mother brings her children to see you, and explains what a terrible thing it is to be blind, lecturing upon you, like one of the animals in the zoo.

Suppose people talked to you through your wife, as though you were deaf, and dumb, and asked how long you had been that way, and wanted to know who dressed and fed you—would it get your nannygoat?

* * *

Sighted people like to imagine what they would do if blind, and one of the commonest ideas is that the blind develop a mysterious "sixth sense." That is right. They do. They must!

To be blind, is like going around with "Kick me!" on your back. The kind, dumb sighted world gives you many a jolt. Against this hazard, the blind develop a sixth sense—the sense of humor.

"We never knew," say readers of this little magazine, "that blind people were so interesting. But then, you must pick out the smartest ones to write about."

Well, yes—and no. Blind people are just people who see things other than with eyes. One hundred blind persons will have as many different kinds of ability as that many sighted persons. They will be mechanical, artistic, intellectual, social, crafty, cranky, and even dumb.

We like to show the blind with their ambitions and troubles, their successes and fun. If there were more of them, the kind, dumb world would know them better. But they number only one in a thousand.

If we can picture them as they are, along with their mysterious sixth sense, they will find more opportunities to do what they want most—be busy, self-reliant and happy in the every-day world.

And if you, sighted reader, acquire some of their mysterious sixth sense, it will subtract from your troubles and add to your fun.

A Sightless Dictaphone Operator

How Clorinda Mangee Trained, Made Good, and
Blazed a Trail into a New Field of Opportunity

From notes furnished

By KATE M. FOLEY

California State Home Teacher for the Blind

SUPPOSE this world were perfect. Just picture it as arranged by one of the many plans now being offered for its improvement, and running along, with everybody in the place where he and she could do the kind of work which best fitted his and her natural abilities.

In that kind of world, you would certainly find blind people in offices, typing letters and records from dictaphone cylinders.

For this work is exactly suited to the blind, with their acute hearing and trained memory, and patience. And yet, it is a field of opportunity in which plucky blind persons are still pioneering, against the conservatism of business, fighting for the opportunity to show what they can do in measured results.

* * *

Such a pioneer is Miss Clorinda Mangee, who for eight years has held a position in the dictaphone department of a San Francisco hardware house, and climbed up to second place from the top.

Miss Mangee was born in California, and lost her sight in early infancy. As soon as she was old enough to go to school, she was sent to the School for the Blind at Berkeley, and stayed there until she was graduated in the high school course. Later, she learned a handicraft, but as it was one adapted to the blind she wanted an occupation which would take her among sighted people.

With this ambition, and a small amount of money that she had earned, she went to a business college and registered for an evening course in typewriting. The course lasted three months, and with the facility gained, she became convinced that, with

more training, she might hope to compete with her more fortunate sisters.

Having confidence, Miss Mangee sought advice from the home teacher of the blind for the California State Library, and following suggestions, continued daily practice at home. The teacher also brought her case to the attention of the Director of State Service for Civilian Rehabilitation, and as soon as it could be arranged, she was enrolled as a student in a well-known Oakland business college, for training as a typist and dictaphone operator.

After six months of intensive study, with the intelligent co-operation of the teachers at the college, Miss Mangee had attained a speed of seventy-five words per minute, and an astonishing degree of accuracy. In a short time, she took the State civil service examination, and passed with a very good grade, and in spite of the fact that she had not enjoyed any



—Photo Paxon, San Francisco

Dictation from a dozen different executives—and Miss Mangee has also become the "umpire" on hardware technicalities.

previous office experience which would count in her favor.

The first position secured by this resolute blind girl was one that came through her civil service examination. In a few weeks she was employed by the State Industrial Accident Commission, where she stayed a year. Still seeking new worlds to conquer, she applied for a place in private business, and was engaged by the San Francisco hardware concern where she has worked for the past eight years.

The hardware business is highly technical, and its correspondence and records involve difficult trade phraseology. It is also a business of many different departments, in which the technical terms vary greatly.

Miss Mangee was soon taking wax cylinder dictation from a dozen different department heads, and matching her ability against sighted operators long familiar with the hardware business. Her attention to detail, and her memory, enabled her to master the complexities of the work, and her courage and appreciation of the chance to work with sighted operators, overcame any strangeness that may have been felt at the start. Promotion followed, until she arose to the position of senior operator.

* * *

"She has transcribed cylinders from every dictator in the house," says one of her employers, "and her familiarity with their dictation is of assistance to new operators. The work she does is not easy for any operator with all the advantages of sight, and opportunities for contact with sources of information needed to properly transcribe dictation that is often carelessly placed on the cylinder. She patiently untangles the real from the seeming in the improperly worded sentences that are often flung into the dictaphone, and seldom requires assistance in the task. She has become the department authority on matters of sentence construction and spelling, and because of her eight years' experience with the terms used in the hardware business, she accelerates the progress of the newcomers in the department by supplying the doubtful word or phrase needed. Her courage, which keeps alert the critical attitude toward her own accomplishments, is a rebuke to those of us who indulge in self-

pity when the road seems hard traveling."

Miss Mangee now transcribes the work of twenty dictators, and has a daily average of thirteen cylinders. She has demonstrated the possibility of using a tabulator, which was long thought to be impossible for a blind typist. She has no difficulty in selecting the right kind of carbon paper, for the different uses of a large office, with a complicated system of correspondence and records. The complexity of the correspondence is shown in the fact that this firm uses eight different kinds of stationery, and in its records, apart from correspondence, there are bids, specifications and similar abstruse documents, all of which she takes from the dictating machine.

Memory must be called to the aid of a blind office worker to a much greater extent than with a sighted one. It is necessary to memorize the location of all the different letter heads, forms and sheets. In writing form letters, Miss Mangee has developed a system all her own, for putting in the names of the various salesmen, and making the insertions on the exact line reserved for these names in the original draft.

But if memory makes greater demands, it also has its compensations, because much of this blind operator's accuracy is the result of her memory system.

In quantity of work, her record is from sixty-five to ninety-six letters a day, which in an eight-hour day, works out at from five to seven minutes for each letter, a remarkable speed to maintain day after day. Besides the length of each letter, there is the detail of deciphering each time, a new correspondent's message to a new person. In a recent month that contained twenty working days, and four half-holidays, she transcribed 1,526 letters.

This blind dictaphone operator is very happy in her work, and hopeful that her success may inspire others similarly handicapped, as well as prove to conservative employers that it is possible for a well-trained blind operator to do as well as, and sometimes better than, sighted workers. Miss Mangee has proved this by the best possible test—her work, measured in quantity and quality.

For every subscription to **LIGHT**, three dollars a year, one of our Braille magazines is sent free to a blind reader who cannot afford to subscribe.

Seeing Pictures Without Optics

The Blind Thoroughly Enjoy Many "Sights"
and Here are Some of Their Resources

By J. ROBERT ATKINSON

THE blind person's sight is largely in the balls of his fingers, instead of the eyeballs. Through the sense of touch, aided by the power of vision, he forms accurate mental pictures of the things he feels. His fingers are his stock in trade. He guards them as others guard their eyes. The loss of his finger, or an injury to any one of them, is to the blind like going blind the second time, if not worse.

As I type this, I have in mind my little friend, Bobby Brereton.

Bobby has never seen material objects with the eyes, but to know him is to be convinced by his happy smile that he has acquired pictures of the things he contacts which may be more beautiful and perfect than their external forms convey.



Braille Institute photo

Through sensitive fingers, this blind school-boy is "seeing" the geography of England.

Most of you have seen the cardboard puzzle map of the United States. Bobby has one, and it would do your heart good to see him use it. If you have tried to put this map together without a diagram

to guide you, you are aware of the mental test involved. But this is real child's play for blind Bobby. He has formed a mental picture of every state in the union. Throw them all together in a box, and in almost a jiffy Bobby can place each state in its proper position.

Visit the Braille Institute of America where the blind are employed, and you will see them performing certain duties as efficiently as their co-workers with eyesight.

For instance, they are going from one table to another in the bindery, picking up printed pages and gathering them into books or magazines. They see what they are doing, otherwise they could not hold their jobs. And sometimes they see more than their associates.

I am reminded here of an incident that occurred several years ago.

A poem on the flag had been submitted for publication in our magazine, "The Braille Mirror." As editor, I hurriedly approved the work, and sent it to the composing-room. An operator with sight set it up. A proof-reader with sight gave it the first reading. Then it passed into the hands of a blind proof-reader. Soon he appeared in the office, pointing out a flagrant discrepancy in statement:

Every patriot should be
As the stripes for purity,
And the forty-eight stars of blue,
Of a slightly darkened hue,
Is the sky under which they fought,
Under which their blood our freedom bought.

This young man had never seen blue sky or the stars, but yet he caught this mistake, which his co-workers with sight, and the editor himself, had failed to see.

* * *

Remember, the average blind person you meet is constituted very much the same as yourself. His tastes, ambitions and desires are perhaps closely akin to yours. To understand him, you must concede this point at the outset. Nine chances to one, he lost his sight after reaching

maturity. Therefore, he once enjoyed the arts, landscape scenes, the theatre and other things which still contribute to your happiness.

I know a blind man who objects to riding in a closed automobile because he says it prevents him from getting an impression of the trees and buildings as he rides. For want of some better term, "The sensing of obstacles." Some have acquired this ability more than others.

Even the sunshine enhances the blind man's comfort and happiness. Though he cannot see it physically, he can feel it. I never was so miserable, either before or since losing my sight, than when living for a little while in a house wherein the sun's rays could not enter. Never imagine that a blind man is not thrilled by the very phenomena which give wings to your emotions.

Let you may say this sounds too transcendental, please remember that physical blindness compels the blind individual to develop his latent mental resources. He must constantly use his mental faculties to offset the limitations of his handicap.

If he lays a book or anything down he must remember where he laid it, or else spend hours searching for it, perhaps in vain. I never knew where to find my hat before losing my sight. Now, if I lay anything aside, and no one molests it, although weeks may have elapsed, I can generally pick it up instantly.

The loss of physical eyesight, and the perpetual exercise of the mind faculties it necessarily entails, enhances and enlarges the power of imagination and discrimination. Thus, the blind man really learns to see mentally instead of physically. Drawing upon his memory, the person blinded after maturity recalls scenes and faces from his childhood up. Through his imagination he forms accurate mental pictures of the things he feels and reads in his Braille books.

Remembering that the artist's painting was a mental concept before it appeared on the canvas, it should not be thought strange that a blind person, through the power of vision, can appreciate art by reading a description of it.

Practical ideas frequently materialize through the reading of good books, or the study of scientific literature. Travel is not the only way of seeing the world.

Authors and lecturers often portray vivid pictures of distant lands to those who have been denied the advantage of travel.

Seeing without optics has been spoken of as second sight. But who can say that it is not in reality first sight, considering the fact that all things tangible have a mental origin?

So, through the reading of good books in Braille, or by inviting a blind person to go with you to the theatre or a lecture, for a stroll in the park or woods, beside the rippling brooks, or for an automobile ride in the country where the meadow larks may be heard, you can paint pictures on the canvas of memory which he will long remember and enjoy.

Photographs are, of course, just beyond the borderland of the sensitive touch of the blind, although profiles, architecture and landscapes reproduced in relief can be appreciated to a remarkable degree.

In many schools for the blind, museums are to be found, filled with miniature productions of animals, buildings, inventions of all kinds which serve as pictures for the blind pupil. Maps and diagrams in relief, outline to the sensitive fingers of the blind a correct mental picture of the world. On these maps, dotted lines serve for rivers, and mountain ranges are indicated by special marks. Oceans and large bodies of water are represented by a solid mass of little dots, while capitals are indicated by large circles, the major cities by smaller ones.

In some schools, large globes have been specially made, and marked in Braille, which enable the blind pupils not only to see the relative locations of the various countries of the world, but also actually to see the motion of the earth on its axis, and the revolution of the planets around the earth.

I hope I have said something here which will enable the reader to realize that it is possible for blind persons to formulate reasonably accurate pictures of the things they contact in daily life; also that pictures themselves, as well as architecture and profiles, can be reproduced in raised typography, if not confused by too much detail, so that the blind can appreciate them to a limited degree.

... "Be sure it's the Braille Institute"

He's a Blind Data Hound

But Kenneth Marshall Was Always Good at Facts—
Loss of Sight Led Him to Make It His Business

By JAMES H. COLLINS

IT IS no easy job, getting Kenneth Marshall out of his office. His young life seems to be made up of answers and questions. Other people ask the questions, and he furnishes the answers.

And such answers!

Dates, names of people and corporations, amounts of insurance and premiums, details of claims. But Marshall replied as though he were reading the answers off a balance sheet.

Finally we broke away, and walked across the park to his favorite restaurant, he following with one finger on my arm, and by some instinct dodging boys on scooters and fat mammas with their bundles. Don't tell me the blind have no sixth sense!

At the restaurant, he had to answer questions before we could eat. A customer had made a claim. Fooling with a curtain he had pulled it down on his head. I don't know whether the damage was a bashed hat or a fractured skull, but there were questions to be answered, because Marshall carries the insurance for that place.

Then we had something to eat, and I got his story.

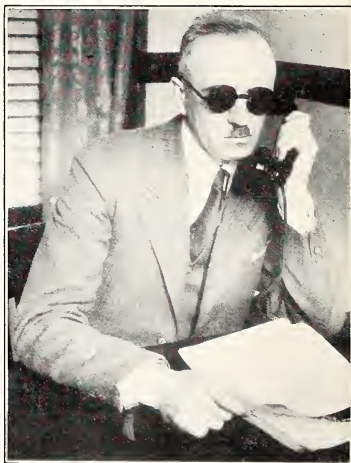
* * *

"I am a native son of California!" he said. "Born in Lathrop, in 1892, and have spent most of my life in Los Angeles. As a boy, my strength was not sufficient to allow me to keep on in school. I had to quit, and be outdoors, and had to work, so I cut lawns and did odd jobs—quite a number of men who have risen in business were boys, doing the same kind of work, twenty years ago.

"I went to Arizona in 1920, and became managing editor of the Nogales 'Times,' and in April, 1921, through an accident, lost my sight. During convalescence, I was back in Los Angeles. It was a heavy blow, but the doctor held out some hope of my regaining sight, and that helped me pass through the gloomy phase. Also, I

was soon determined to get out and do something, sight or no sight."

Marshall is not in the heavyweight class, physically, though he looks well and fit, and his chief characteristic is a restless energy and love of work. You cannot imagine him sitting still long, even under the handicap of blindness.



—Braille Institute photo

Blind for ten years, Kenneth Marshall has carried on a complicated insurance business.

"In June, 1922, I began looking for a job," he continued. "And I soon landed one in the insurance business, which was a line that seemed interesting, and well within my ability, now that permanent blindness had become a fact. My line is fire, ocean marine, liability, automobile, fidelity and surety bond, and so forth—not life insurance. I found that it was a business of much detail. I had always liked the detail side of business, the accounting, and credits. Since it has been

necessary to train my memory, I have developed a facility that astonishes sighted people. For instance, in court I have recited lists of names, dates and details, while being checked against written lists, and made few mistakes. Names and dates are nuts to me. I seem to have some mental capacity for them, though I could not remember two lines of poetry, or a page from a book, as did Theodore Roosevelt. This was the trend of my mind before I lost sight, and I have developed it. Some things about it I do not understand, but it is not a sixth sense.

"My job paid fifteen dollars a month salary, and commission on the insurance business I could stir up. I started from door to door, 'cold turkey.' Called on everybody I knew, and could hear of, who bought this kind of insurance. I knew a great many people, having lived here most of my life. And my friends sent me to other prospects."

"Did you have any difficulty on account of your blindness? Or was it an advantage to have so many friends?"

"Neither one nor the other. Nobody seemed to feel sorry for me, or give me any particular sympathy, and after the first minute or two, my blindness was forgotten, because I had gauged the prospect's insurance needs, and was busy telling him what I could do for him.

"This kind of insurance is sold on service more than upon the original policy. A new client may buy insurance because you offer an attractive policy, or show an intimate knowledge of his needs, but it is in what you do for him afterwards that you build up your business. Take this restaurant, and its damage claim. Such claims are annoying and time wasting, apart from money cost. If the insurance man takes them off his client's mind, he is rendering a great service. I say to my clients, 'Send me your claims, and then forget them.' That is what builds and holds business."

* * *

He is a self reliant fellow, and like many of the blind, wants to stand on his own feet and beat the sighted fellows in honest competition. This self reliance, he told me, extends even to the desire to get about with the least assistance.

"Let me put one hand on your arm and go along," he said, as we started for lunch. "I have a real dislike for being led or assisted."

However, when it comes to assisting others who have lost eyesight in adult life, he spends a great deal of time, and not a little money, in efforts to rehabilitate and place blinded men and women.

"What we want to do," he said, "is acquaint sighted people with the abilities of the blind, so that they may be employed in offices, factories and other places. Due to lack of knowledge, sighted employers will not give blind workers a chance to make good. One blind person, given a chance, would often show that employment, not charity, is the solution of this problem."

"You know something about placing sighted workers in any business," I said. "It is complicated. Add blindness and it becomes still more complicated. Can this be done by an organization—or is it a job for the state?"

"It is not simple," Marshall admitted. "I've had some disappointments in trying to place people. But blind people have a wide range of ability. The understanding and patient co-operation of the sighted public is needed. An organization can do much to create that understanding."



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The Lions' Splendid Work for the Blind

Besides Sponsoring Books for the Blind, this
Order is Now Taking Up Their Employment Problem

AS THIS issue of "Light" comes off the press, the Lions are gathering in Los Angeles 10,000 strong. It is fitting that we should dedicate it to an order which has done so much for blind people, and "Light" gratefully acknowledges the work of the International Association of Lions Clubs, and wishes them the best of everything at their convention July 19 to 22.

First, the Lions have shouldered part of the general reading problem of the blind. Below we give a list of books printed by the printing department of the Braille Institute of America which have been placed in libraries through the country by individual Lions Clubs, and books of other presses have been sponsored in the same generous way. The Lions also publish a Braille magazine for children.

In sponsoring Braille books, the particular Lions Club usually gives a sum sufficient to cover the full cost of the stereotype plates, and places at least one free copy in a library circulating books for the blind. Sometimes the club sponsors a book in memory of a departed brother, and always a certificate page, giving credit to the club, is bound in each volume, as an acknowledgment of the blind reading public.

The Lions are an organization of business men, and this work for the blind has led them to study the employment and placement problems of both the blind and the blinded. It is expected that, as this phase of the work is understood, the Lions will contribute their business experience and their splendid fraternal spirit to the solution of the biggest problem of the sightless—fitting themselves for, and finding their proper place in, the workaday world of everyday people.

Braille Books Sponsored by Lions Clubs

(Press of Braille Institute of America)

Atlantic Highlands, N. J., Insurance Underwriting, Brown.
Bridgeport, Conn., God and the Grocery Man, Wright.

Bristol, Conn., The Song of the Lark, Part I, Cather.
Bronx, N. Y., The Thundering Herd, Grey.
Collingswood, N. J., Youth and the Bright Medusa, Cather.
Cranford, N. J., The Song of the Lark, Part 6, Cather.
Detroit, Mich., Washington, the Image and the Man, Woodward.
Detroit (Downtown), The Green Murder Case, Van Dine.
Detroit (Northwest Lions Club), The Duke Steps Out, Cary.
Elizabeth, N. J., The Cat and the Captain, Coatsworth.
Floral Park, L. I., N. Y., I Know a Secret, Morley.
Frederick, Md., The Gentle Reader, Crothers.
Greenwich, Conn., My Story That I Like Best (various authors).
Hempstead and Garden City, L. I., N. Y., Indian Summer and In Chancery, Galsworthy.
Hillside, N. J., Hallowe'en Stories, Tyler.
Hollis, L. I., N. Y., The Song of the Lark, Cather, Parts 3, 4 and 5; The Ebb Tide, Stevenson.
Long Island, N. Y., Twenty-four Unusual Stories, Tyler.
Lyons, N. Y., The Dynamic of Manhood, Gulick.
Maplewood-South Orange, N. J., Seeing the Eastern States, Faris.
Montclair, N. J., The Hunter's Moon, Poole.
Mt. Vernon, N. Y., Bermuda in Poem, Fairchild; The Girls, Ferber.
New Brunswick, N. J., A Literary Courtship, Fuller.
New Rochelle, N. Y., When You Write a Letter, Clark.
Niagara Falls, N. Y., Dangerous Age, Macaulay.
North Park, San Diego, Calif., The Out Trail, Rinehart.
Passaic, N. J., Johnny Blossom, Zwilgmeyer.
Perth Amboy, N. J., The Song of the Lark, Cather, Part 2.
Pittsfield, Mass., The Pavilion on the Links, Stevenson.
Port Washington, L. I., N. Y., Lady Into Fox, Garnett.
Queens Village, L. I., N. Y., The Dove's Nest, Mansfield.
Richmond Hill, South Long Island, N. Y., A Man of Mark, Hope.
Rochester, N. Y., The Glorious Adventure, Halliburton.
San Diego, Calif. (see North Park).
South Orange, N. J. (see Maplewood).
Trenton, N. J., Wake Robin, Burroughs.
Tuckahoe, N. Y., The Rajah's Diamond, Stevenson.
Washington, D. C., Out of the Dark, Keller; The World I Live In, Keller; My Key of Life and The Stone Wall, Keller.
Waterbury, Conn., Portrait of a Man with Red Hair, Walpole.
Westfield, N. J., Tomorrow Morning, Parrish.
White Plains, N. Y., A Man of Property, Galsworthy.
Woodhaven, L. I., N. Y., A Venetian June, Fuller.
Yonkers, N. Y., Awakening and To Let, Galsworthy.

To the Public:

The Braille Institute of America wishes to emphasize that its headquarters are at 741 North Vermont Avenue and that they are not affiliated with any other Blind Agency.

A Few Words on a Live Topic

Nothing Less than Old Man Money, Whose
Extended Vacation is Tough on Your Blind Pals



ALWAYS speak well of the absent, they say. So I take my pen in hand to say a few kind words about money, which has been AWOL since you know when. One day you hear that THEY have it—and then you hear not. Maybe they have it, but won't spend it, or maybe it has gone and got itself tight.

The prolonged vacation which money seems to have taken for itself is hard on blind readers of our Braille magazines. There are not as many pianos to be tuned, or musical engagements to be had, in times like these, and the blind subscribers write to tell us they cannot renew.

But here is where our subscription plan

for "Light" comes right on the job.

As you know, for every sighted reader who sends three dollars for "Light," we are able to send a Braille magazine to some blind reader who sure needs a lift through the narrow place in the economic fence. And believe me, the blind appreciate it!

Money must be around somewhere.

Just the other day, we got a subscription to "Light" from away off in South Africa, in good British shillings. How the magazine ever got so far away, beats me, and I certainly hope that Old Man Money hasn't gone that far off for its self-invited furlough.

But meanwhile, if you see this AWOL anywhere, or happen to have him with you, chase him our way.

His blind pals need him!

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Blind and Deaf—and a Baseball Fan!

Likewise a Radio and Mechanical Expert—
How Chester Roberts "Watches" a Ball Game

By CARLYLE HOADLEY

ONE of the hardships of Chester N. Roberts' life is, not being blind, nor deaf, but in being regarded as—dumb! Born a perfectly normal boy, and losing his hearing at the age of ten, the result of a slight fall, and hereafter finding his sight fading out—sympathetic souls seem to take it for granted that he is a 100 per cent loss, physically speaking.

Which is far from the case. For this blind-deaf man has exceptional intelli-

imposed upon him. Just able to see his way around, as sight faded, he played baseball, football, chopped wood, raised chickens and tilled a garden—and made them pay!

At thirteen, losing his mother, he entered the Perkins Institution for the Blind, where he learned chair-caning, rush-seating and Sloyd work. He was keenly interested in literature, and still is.

His teachers pushed him forward, but the authorities refused him a full high school education. So, at nineteen, he decided to go to work. Entering the State workshop, he mastered willow basket and furniture making, and became one of the best workers.

Still, that was not enough, for he had long ago discovered the importance of living as closely as possible to everyday people.

"I have no patience with the blind who will not try," he says. "I do not consider myself wonderful, but God had given me a pair of hands, and it was up to me to use them."

So, his next step was finding a job, and for a while he washed dishes in a chain restaurant, where he held his own with husky sighted men—he is only five-feet-five, and then weighed 123 pounds. He found it pleasant to work with seeing people, and they were kindly, and struck up conversations in rest moments, writing words in his hand, he replying by voice.

But this proved too hard, and he had to go back to the basket shop, where he sewed brooms, became a fast worker, and learned to make toy brooms for kiddies, still one of his handicrafts.

* * *

Radio work has given him his greatest pleasure, and he has had much satisfaction in "taming wild sets," and tuning in hard distance stations.

Never taught anything about radio, he has learned much by patient exploring with a trained sense of touch, and his mechanical mind. Time after time he has re-



—Braille Institute photo

"God gave me a pair of hands." Says Chester Roberts, and although he cannot hear or see, those hands build and doctor radio sets.

gence, and mechanical ability. He has mastered the new art of radio. He is an eager follower of baseball. And an "Amos 'n' Andy" fan—

But read his story, judge for yourself:

Born in Mansfield, Massachusetts, and going to public school until his accident, he was not disheartened by the handicaps

built sets, and cured balky receivers of weird static, as well as wound coils, adjusted condensers, torn down, built up, and substituted different parts.

He has a small receiver which he holds in the palm of his hand, "hearing" the reception by feeling, and detecting music, speech and so forth by touch. He has tuned in stations as far as Mexico, from his present home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and many of the stations in this country as far as Florida and Oklahoma.

"I get a great deal of pleasure just sitting at the radio and feeling the music," he says. "With speech, I can tell who is talking, Amos or Andy, for Amos talks faster than Andy, with his slow drawl."

* * *

But baseball is his greatest delight, and his home is decorated with souvenirs of the national game, such as baseballs signed by Ty Cobb, Tris Speaker, Walter Johnson, Bill Carrigan and Connie Mack, and a famous "shutout" ball that won a big game, and others signed by whole teams. He has the bat with which Ty Cobb hit five "homers" in two days.

The ball-players all know him, and each season he receives a pass, going to the games with a friend who keeps him posted on the game by talking upon the palm of his hand. As soon as he is seated near the cage, he asks who the players are, and where they are playing, and quickly has the whole run of the game, which he follows with breathless interest.

Blind and a baseball bug, deaf and a radio nut!

"Yes, because I was not brought up as a blind boy," he answers. "Such bringing up is a terrible handicap, making blindness even harder to conquer. You know that the average blind boy would not be allowed to swing an ax, nor go with his Dad on hunting and fishing trips, much less be sent on errands that called for crossing busy streets and railroad tracks. Nor would he be allowed to play games in which he was kicked, and knocked down.

"But my parents let me do some of these things, and the rest I did off my own bat, because I was—well, kind of a wild kid. While my hearing was lost completely, I had the advantage of slowly disappearing sight, and thus could get around among sighted people most of my

boyhood, adjusting myself to less and less vision. My parents did not coddle me, and I chopped wood because I loved to swing the ax, and to handle all kinds of tools. I am proud of my parents for bringing me up like other boys."

Mr. Roberts is now thirty-four years old, and has grown to weigh 215 pounds, and when not busy on radio experiment or Braille reading, is generally found at his Braille typewriter, working over his fiction. Among other stories he has lately written a detective novelette in eleven chapters, "Coeur de la Lacie, or the Purple Mask," and a short radio mystery story, "Incendiary by Radio." If you see stories signed "Jumbo Neville," his pen-name, you will know he has arrived.

"Don't let anybody get the notion that I am a perfect optimist," he concluded. "I have my spells of gloom, like everybody else—yes, and rebellion! It is not my handicaps that I kick about, but the confounded bottomless ladder which I seem unable to climb, no matter what I try to do. All of us can do something with the faculties we have, and all the blind need is just a little better chance among sighted people."

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Printing Centenary for the Blind

The Gospel of St. John Was the First Book,
Printed in 1832, in Raised Roman Letters

THE first book of record to be published for the blind, was the Gospel of St. John, which appeared exactly 100 years ago, printed in a system of raised Roman letters. Printing from movable type had been developed by Gutenberg nearly two hundred years previously, in the middle of the 15th century, but it was not until the early part of the 17th century, five years after the King James Version of the Bible first appeared in print, that the first efforts were made to enable the blind to read through the sense of touch.

The publication of the Gospel of St. John, in 1832, ended 200 years of experimentation to enable the blind to read through the sense of touch.

By that time, Louis Braille, a blind musician and mathematician in the schools of Paris, France, had designed a dot system formed from all the possible combinations of six dots arranged in a group resembling the domino six. But Braille System was not then fully developed nor was it officially adopted in France until 1856. Hence, the first book to be printed for the blind, in 1832, appeared in the system of raised Roman letters, which later on, after further modifications to make the letters still more tangible to touch, was called "Boston Line Letter."

Braille System offered many advantages, chiefly that it might be written as well as read by the blind. It was introduced in America in 1860, by the Missouri School for the Blind, and in 1918, it was officially adopted in America as the standard system for the English reading blind throughout the world.

The Bible in Braille is one of a very few books which the blind yearn to possess as their own. Other books of a lighter and less salutary influence, they can borrow from libraries, but the Bible they wish to have as their daily companion. Heralding its sweet promise of "On earth, peace, good will to men," its pages teeming with spiritual truths, and narrative after narrative of man's victory over adversities of every kind, it seems quite

natural that, to the blind, the Bible indeed becomes the "Book of all books."

Deprived of the beauty, grandeur and sunshine of the material world, many of the blind turn to the Bible for light and comfort when everything else has failed them.

Is it any wonder then, that the blind yearn to possess a Braille Bible as their very own? But how many who enjoy God's greatest gift to man, physical eyesight, fully realize what this means? Many may know that the Bible is published for the blind, but how many know that it or any other book in Braille, cannot be published commercially? And, how many are there who know that a Braille Bible forms 21 large volumes, 11 x 11 inches in size, weighs 72 pounds, requires five feet of shelving, and actually costs about \$121 to distribute on a non-profit basis. These figures may frighten the casual observer, but they do not startle the Braille reader, nor discourage him from yearning to possess a Bible as his own. He will read it day after day, and from cover to cover, if only he is given a chance.

For twelve years the Braille Bible Society, Inc., with headquarters at Los Angeles, California, has labored earnestly to meet this yearning by the blind for Braille Bibles at prices within their reach. With the aid of voluntary contributions, the Society has the distinction of having published the first King James Version of the Bible in the Standard Braille System, the first edition of which was completed in February, 1924. Since that time, the Society has distributed to the blind more than fifteen thousand volumes free, or at prices the blind are able to pay, which are always much below the non-profit distribution cost.

At the present time, the Society is offering the King James Version in Braille at the special price of \$1 a volume, or \$21 for the complete Bible, postpaid. For further information, write Braille Bible Society, 739 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

Believe It or Not!

You can take it on the word of Believe-It-or-Not Ripley, that a man totally blind, 63 years old, has built a three story house, containing seven rooms and bath, with his own hands, entirely unaided.

Robert L. Ripley has put the story in his book, "Believe It or Not!" Francis A. Burdett is the man, and he lives in Wayne, New Jersey. His house is Dutch Colonial, with some difficult angles, and the blind builder did all his figuring mentally and carried the complete plans and specifications in his mind. He worked as unconcerned on the roof as he did on the ground. He walked over open floor beams, climbed up and down long ladders, put up scaffolding, carried and placed all the heavy timber, and hammered, sawed, nailed and placed lumber so accurately that the average person who looked on thought he could see. The house is now on public exhibition—a monument to courage, patience and an indomitable will.

New Books for the Blind

(Printed on the presses of the Braille Institute of America, Inc.)

Men and Machines, by Stuart Chase, 2 vols., cost \$14.67, selling price \$7.00.

Manchuria, Cradle of Conflict, by Owen Latimore, 3 vols., cost \$12.50, selling price, \$8.75.

Recovery, the Second Effort, by Sir Arthur Salter, K.C.B., 3 vols., cost \$14.28, selling price \$7.90.

Waterless Mountain, by Laura Adams Armer, 2 vols., cost, \$5.67, selling price \$4.50.

The Harvest, by L. H. Bailey, 1 vol., cost \$6.04, selling price \$3.50.

Oxford Book of English Verse, edited by A. Quiller-Couch, 6 vols., cost \$40.85, selling price \$18.75.

The Magic of the Stars, by Maurice Maeterlinck, 1 vol., cost \$4.29, selling price \$2.50.

Wakefield, A Folk-Masque of the Birth of Washington, by Percy MacKaye, 1 vol., cost \$5.02, selling price \$3.50.

Skyward, by Richard E. Byrd, 2 vols., cost \$15.91, selling price \$6.00.

The United States in World Affairs, by Walter Lippmann, 2 vols., cost \$14.57, selling price \$6.50.

Marvels of Science, by M. K. Wisheart, 2 vols., in press, selling price \$5.15.

The Making of Chemistry, by Benjamin Harrow, 1 vol., in press, selling price \$3.50.

The Ordeal of Civilization, by James Harvey Robinson, 7 vols., in press, selling price \$20.00.

Latin America, by William R. Shepherd, 2 vols., in press, selling price \$5.25.

Keeping Up With Science, by E. E. Slosson, 2 vols., in press, selling price \$6.65.

LIGHT will come to you a whole year for three dollars—and at the same time one of our Braille magazines will be sent free, on your behalf, to a needy blind reader. If you wish, you may name the blind reader.

Because Uncle Sam carries Braille books free, the great need is for more books rather than more libraries to supply the blind.

Blindness is very prevalent in the Orient, especially India and Turkey, 1.5 per thousand population in India, and in some districts as high as 4.38. The economic loss to India is estimated at \$65,000,000 yearly.

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The Braille Institute—What, Why, How

Brief Facts About Its Origin, Aims and Five-Year Plan, and Its President, Robert A. Odell

CHARTERED under the laws of California as a nation-wide, non-profit, non-sectarian organization, and having as its object, the literary advancement of the blind, the Braille Institute of America, Inc., is an expansion of the activity started in Los Angeles, under the name Universal Braille Press, founded originally in 1919 by J. Robert Atkinson, with the financial assistance of Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear, of Brookline, Massachusetts.

In establishing the institution, the founder and charter members were motivated by a desire to provide:

First, a sound, nation-wide channel for the literary advancement of the blind, by giving them the same variety of good reading matter liberally supplied by the press and public libraries to persons with normal eyesight.

Second, to create an organization to which philanthropists, inspired to help in this field, may feel secure in leaving bequests.

Third, to influence and assist in the passage of State and Federal legislation of a humanitarian nature designed to promote the social, cultural, and industrial welfare of the blind, that they may become self-supporting, resourceful citizens.

Honorary memberships are conferred upon librarians, constituting them a Publication Committee vested with authority in selecting literature to be published by the Institute, and blind readers are also given a voice in the selection of reading matter—a franchise never before enjoyed by them.

Foreseeing the immediate need of generous gifts and endowments, in order that the Institute may fulfill its objective, the Trustees have launched a five-year, one-million-dollar expansion program, which has been endorsed by the Los Angeles Department of Social Service, an official bureau of the city government which thoroughly investigates all fund-raising projects. The California Intelligence Service Bureau and Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce are also cited as referees of the project.

Sixty cents of every dollar raised, or \$600,000 of the one million dollars to be raised, will be placed in trust as a permanent endowment fund, administered by

a reputable banking institution. The remaining forty cents of every dollar raised is to be used primarily to promote four publishing projects:

1. To finance the cost of publishing a standard abridged dictionary in Braille, that it may be marketed to the blind at a reasonable price.

2. To subsidize secular magazines, and to provide a fund for free subscriptions.

3. To sponsor each year several good books free to libraries throughout the nation.

4. To increase the Institute's music publication activities for blind professional musicians.

Among the charter members of the Braille Institute, and a member of its first board of trustees, is Robert A. Odell, of the law firm, Tanner, Odell and Taft, of Los Angeles.



Robert A. Odell

was later duly probated.

Robert A. Odell was born at Port Byron, Illinois, in 1882. Graduating from the public schools of Rock Island County, he came to California in 1903, entered the University of Southern California, and received his LL.D. degree in 1905. He was admitted to the bar that same year, and has practiced law here since that time.

Mr. Odell has always manifested a deep interest in social and educational problems. For six years he served the community as a member of the Los Angeles Board of Education, filling the office of President for four years, and for eight years he has presided as Chairman of Southern Section of Grand Lodge Committee of Public School Week.

He is a 32nd degree Mason, K.C.C.H., and Past Master of Elysian Lodge of Masons, and also a member of Sigma Chi Fraternity.

Mr. Odell's interest in work for the blind was aroused in 1919, through a friend of Mr. Atkinson's. The following year he rendered the cause helpful legal services in its foundational work, for which he would accept no fee. Mr. Odell also had the privilege of incorporating in a client's will the first bequest given to the institution of which he is now President, to furnish Braille Bibles to the blind, which will

A Worker For the Blind of Japan

Finishing His Course at an American College, this
Blind Japanese Goes Home to Found a Library

AMONG our most interesting visitors recently, at the Braille Institute of America, was the Reverend Tetsumaro Kumagae, a delegate from Japan to the World Conference on Work for the Blind, held last year in New York, and later a student at Drew University. Having finished his course in theology and philosophy, Mr. Kumagae recently paid

chased several English Braille books, among them "The Nemesis of American Business," by Stuart Chase, "Synonyms, Antonyms and Prepositions," by James C. Fernold, "The Human Body," by Logan Clendening, and "Science and Civilization," by Dr. Robert A. Millikan. Furthermore, he hopes to find some way whereby all standard literature printed in Braille in the United States may be made available to the blind people of his book-reading country.

While he was here, the Los Angeles Chapter of the American Red Cross transcribed into Braille for him, by hand, "The Idea of God," by Pringle Patterson, in nine embossed volumes, and "The Human Quest," by Edwin Lewis, in eight volumes. The binding was donated by the Braille Institute of America, and the volumes are now to be given to the blind of Japan, through himself, with the co-operation of the Red Cross and Braille Institute.

Before entering the ministry, Mr. Kumagae was a successful masseur, practicing that calling for about five years, during which period he also taught medical science, massage, physiology, anatomy and pathology in the blind schools of Japan.

Our advertisers not only advertise with us, but are friends of the blind and we ask your support when in need of merchandise and service they may have.

Film "Reading" for the Blind

A blind Columbia graduate, Olaf Leonard Larsen, who recently left college with high honors, hopes to see sound film records of books made for the blind, to supplement Braille books, of which he is critical because of the cost of printing, and also because of the few blind persons who are highly educated.

Larsen and a blind classmate, Morris Cohen, both completely blind since boyhood, received Phi Beta Kappa keys, the mark of scholastic excellence, says the Los Angeles Examiner, and Larsen received his degree of master of arts, Cohen bachelor of arts. Larsen is twenty-six, and Cohen twenty-four years of age.

"Be sure it's the Braille Institute"



—Braille Institute photo

A self-taught reader of Braille in English, this Japanese minister works to help his 100,000 blind countrymen.

us another visit, on his way back home. He lives at Ube She, Yamaguchi Ken, Japan, for which he will sail in August.

Mr. Kumagae is forty-nine years old, the father of two boys and a girl, and for seventeen years has been in the Japanese Christian ministry. He reads and speaks English fluently, having educated himself in our language, and hopes to be instrumental in starting an English library for the blind at Osaka.

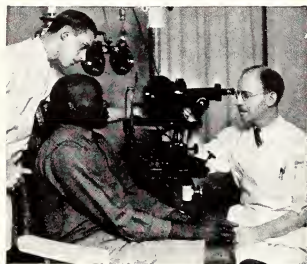
While in the United States, he pur-

To See—or Not to See?

That is the Question to Be Answered by
Yourself, With Intelligent Care of Your Eyes

By HERBERT STANTON MARSHUTZ, A. B., O. D.

VISION is seemingly an effortless act. Pains, aches or disturbances must arise before men and women become interested in the welfare of their eyes. Few creatures are born with keen vision. But Nature provides the equipment. If properly nourished, the wonderful gift of sight develops to its fullest during the first four or five years, and carries on as long as life flows. Unless there arises interference bringing about serious impairment of vision.



Tests of a native Zulu's eyes in Hollywood, by Dr. Marshutz, showed that, to keep books, he would need glasses.

What is this "interference?" What are the possible causes of partial or complete loss of the sense of clear vision? Is it within human power to avoid such misfortune?

First in the list of ailments contributing to loss of sight will be toxemias and diseases of the human body.

A young woman's right eye suddenly developed a marked blur for both distant and close vision. Tests were made, based upon ability to recognize certain colors out of the "corner" of the eye, while looking straight ahead. A decided constriction or narrowing of the field for green was noted. As this discrepancy generally points to a dental problem, the patient

was advised to arrange for an oral X-ray. Three infected teeth were discovered by her dentist. In 30 days vision of her right eye was again normal.

Any unnatural occurrence affecting the nerves of the eyes can reduce vision and bring about a condition of partial (and occasionally, total) loss of sight. Such a common ailment as influenza, through its deleterious influence upon the bloodstream, can cause a loss of focusing power and its resulting impairment of vision. The ordeal of a general anaesthetic can have the same result. A terrific mental shock may accomplish it. This follows because of a partial undermining of the reserve strength of some of the important muscles of the eyes. The actual medium of transmission of sight involved is the nerves.

In a second group, "normal" influences, are two potent factors which bring about a deterioration of vision even to the extent of partial blindness. They are the focusing errors of the eye which can be divided into two divisions, first: hereditary or congenital; second, acquired through advancing age or from eyestrain.

Unquestionably, the human race suffers more from loss of clear sight on account of these natural or normal deficiencies of the eyes than from disease, injuries, and nervous ailments together. It is the "normal" visual errors that account for a large percentage of eyestrain, headaches, blurred sight and related nervous troubles.

At any time in middle life a combination of these types of ocular defects can contribute to the eyesight problem of any man or woman.

Heredity and health are factors in estimating the life span of any pair of eyes. And equally vital in foretelling the future is the care afforded the eyes.

If visual defects, coupled with trying occupational duties, or exhausting reading habits, bring about continued eye abuse, then only the goddess of Good Luck can account for what the future may hold.

Seen With Half an Eye

Mary bought a little tire,
All round and full of air,
She paid a dollar sixty-nine,
And had some change to spare,
She took the little motor car,
Raced, to see what it could do,
She turned a corner pretty fast,
And the bargain-sale tire blew.

So they planted little Mary
Where the pretty daisies grew.
—Hollywood Citizen.

* * *

The board of experts was testing Blind Rastus, and one psychiatrist asked, "Do you ever hear voices without being able to tell who is speaking, or where the sound comes from?"

"Yassuh!" answered Rastus.

"You do? And when does this occur?" retored the doctor.

"Ovah de radio, Sah!"

* * *

Parking space is a place miles from your destination where you leave your car to have a permanent wave put in the fenders.

* * *

"Our new minister is wonderful—he brings home to you things you have never seen before."
"That's nothing—our laundry driver does the same thing."

"Smith is getting married next week."
"Good! I never liked that fellow."—Outspan.

* * *

Father—"You are twenty-one now, and ought to help me a little."

Son—"Yes, Dad—what can I do for you?"

"You might pay the last three installments on your baby carriage."—Exchange.

* * *

"My husband is an angel."

"You always get the breaks—mine's still alive."—Clipped.

* * *

The road leading to Success is full of "No Parking!" signs.—Farm Journal.

* * *

He—"May I kiss you?"

She—"Heavens, another amateur!"

—Pathfinder.

* * *

"How did you get banged up that way?"

"Talking when I should have been listening."
—Clipped.

* * *

Most of us get what we deserve, but only the successful admit it.—Pacific Rural Press.

* * *

Lives of great men all remind us,

If we care to read of such,

That in this world we leave behind us,

Most of us have talked too much.

—Clipped.

Two Magazines for the Price of One... LIGHT for You... and a Braille Magazine to a Blind Reader

LIGHT is a magazine you will want to read regularly. Because, it brings you face to face with ambitious blind people, and gives you some of their courage and cheerfulness.

We have an attractive subscription offer.

Send us THREE DOLLARS for one year for LIGHT, for yourself—eight issues. We will then back up your subscription with a free subscription for a Braille magazine for some blind reader who wants it, but is unable to pay.

If you wish to name the blind reader to receive the Braille magazine, we will send it to the person you designate.

Two good magazines for the price of one, and two readers made happy.

DO IT TODAY!

What Blind People Saw In a Museum

Ten Fingers Beat Two Eyes When They
Roamed Freely Through Science Exhibits

AN interesting experiment, made as much for the education of sighted people as the blind themselves, was carried out not long ago in a New York museum, when seven blind men and two blind women were taken through in a group, and allowed to "see" things to their heart's content.

"Seeing" with their ten fingers, their faces wreathed in smiles, reports the New York "Times," they went through the Museum of Science and Industry. They clambered into a miniature airplane used for the ground training of pilots and handled the controls in an endeavor to keep the device from tail spins and nose dives. They inspected full sized airplanes from propeller to rudder, and while the rest "saw" the many other exhibits, the most mechanically inclined devoted much time to a minute manual examination of airplanes and automobile motors.

H. M. Inmeln, blind director of social welfare and one of the members of the party, who earned his M. A. degree at Harvard, lost one eye at the age of 6 through a firecracker explosion and the other at the age of 12 through being struck by lightning.

"I'm rather overwhelmed," he said. "There's so much to see that I find I'd have to take a week to get a real picture of the exhibits. But it is most fascinating.

"I get in contact with machinery through doing all the repair work and adjustments on my car, but the average blind man has no idea of the shape of an automobile motor. The man who sees can see such things through drawings or by attending automobile shows, but we fellows can't. The authorities, through their courtesy in allowing us to feel the exhibits, are furnishing a real opportunity here."

Introducing Alan T. Hunt

Alan T. Hunt has lately been appointed production superintendent of the printing department of the Braille Institute of America, and brings to this exacting work an excellent technical experience.



Mr. Hunt was born in New York, 1900, attended school in Newton, Massachusetts, enlisted as a private in the United States Marine Corps, March, 1919, was appointed midshipman in July, 1920, entered the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, and was graduated June, 1924, and served as second lieutenant in the Marine Corps until October, 1928, including service in Cuba and Nicaragua.

From military service, he came to Los Angeles, and entered the employ of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company of California, where he was connected with the technical service department, and also co-pilot of the Airship "Volunteer." From 1930 until coming to the Braille Institute of America, he was an instructor in the Cumnock Schools, Los Angeles.

Braille Printing in a News Reel

How printing for the blind is done, may now be seen in a comprehensive news reel recently made in the printing department of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., by the Universal News Reel Service, featuring every operation in the making of books and magazines.

This news reel will receive world wide bookings. For information as to release date in your local theatres, contact the Universal Film Exchange of your community, explaining that the reel is feature No. 20 in a series called "Strange As It Seems." Here are some of its showings around Los Angeles:

Fox Theatre	Pomona	July 17 and 18
Warner Theatre	Huntington Pk.	July 22 and 23
Warner Theatre	San Pedro	July 24-27
Wardman	Whittier	July 27-28
Avalon	Catalina Island	July 31
La Tosca Theatre	Los Angeles	August 2 and 3
Washington Theatre	Los Angeles	August 27
Florentina	Los Angeles	September 4-6

Blind Children in the Movies

Do not forget to see the talking picture, "A Symphony in Six Million," written by Fannie Hurst and produced by the R.K.O. Studios, when it comes to the local theatre in your community. You will remember that the Studios were assisted by the Braille Institute of America by furnishing blind children for the school room scenes.



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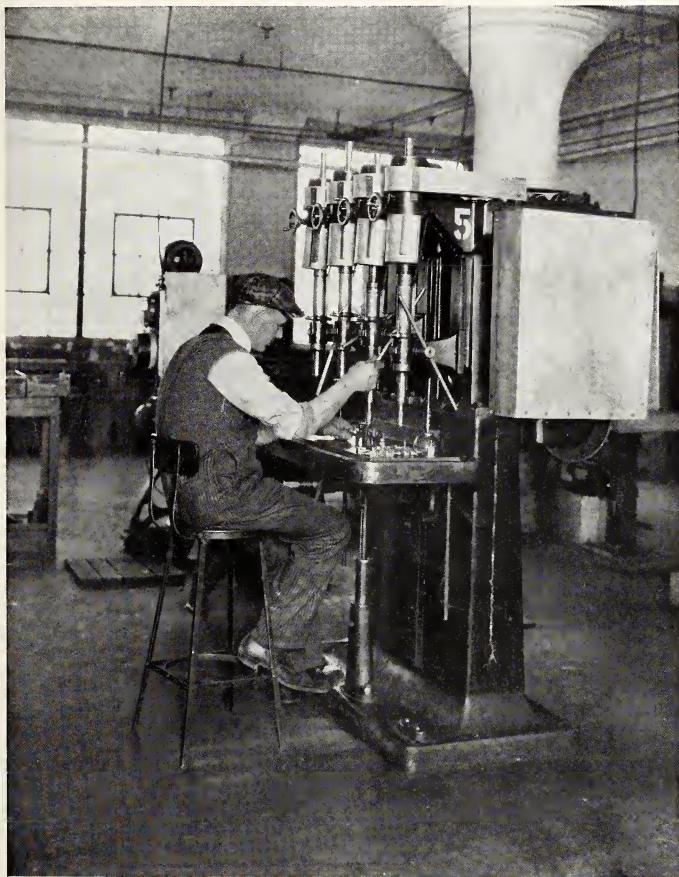
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LIGHT



A REGULAR JOB!

This drill press operator lost his sight in a war-time munition factory, but has been re-trained to electrical work.

(See Page 4)

Photo courtesy Crocker-Wheeler
Electrical Manufacturing Company

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1932



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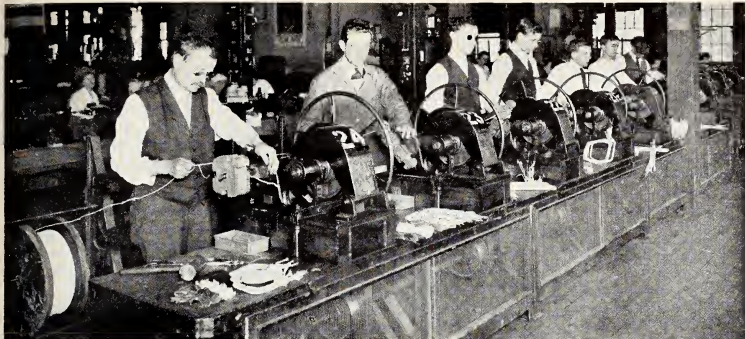
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The "Machine Age" makes good—read the story of these sightless electrical workers, Page 4.
Photo courtesy Crocker-Wheeler

Contents for September-October, 1932

Medals for the Sighted—Editorial	3
Regular Factory Jobs for the Blind, by John Mappelbeck	4
What the Well-Dressed Blind May Wear, by J. Robert Atkinson	6
Music Under a Double Handicap, by James H. Collins	8
"A Blind Man to See You," by The Editor	10
Bibles in Braille for the Blind	12
Our Own "Better Business Bureau"	14
And Her Dividends Never Stopped	18
Seen With Half an Eye	19
A New Magazine in "Moon" Type	20

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Activities of the Braille Institute of America

Sponsorship of BOOKS and MAGAZINES, published in Braille, for the use of the blind, on a non-profit basis and free to the blind unable to pay.

Free HOME TEACHING of the blind in the mastery of the Braille system.

Maintenance of a FREE LENDING REFERENCE LIBRARY, being stocked with business journals, guides and numerous books on all vocations, trades and professions, followed by the blind, including works on the principles of insurance, commercial law, real estate, business ethics, social and political economy, salesmanship, journalism, and many other subjects.

BUREAU of BETTER BUSINESS for the BLIND to assist blind adults in choosing a trade, profession or business suitable to their talents.

SCHOLARSHIPS for vocational and higher education in branches of the trades and professions found practical for the blind, such scholarship to provide readers also when necessary.

BUSINESS FINANCE to finance the blind business men and women by way of loans under supervision of the Braille Institute Trustees, until they are permanently and successfully established.

To engage in all other HUMANITARIAN efforts incidental to the social, industrial, professional and literary welfare of the blind not being covered by other agencies, public or private.

Our Magazines: "LIGHT"—a success magazine of the blind; the "BRAILLE MIRROR" and "MARCH OF EVENTS", Braille monthlies for the blind, with semi-monthly news service.

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LIGHT

To further acquaint sighted people with the ambitions and success of the blind, and enlist aid in meeting their problem of securing good reading matter.

Published eight times a year by Braille Institute of America, Inc.
741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California

\$3 a year—every subscription turned into a free subscription for a Braille magazine to a needy blind reader

James H. Collins, Editor

J. Robert Atkinson, Associate Editor

Jerry M. Nesbitt, Business Manager

VOL. 4

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER, 1932

NOS. 5-6

Medals for the Sighted

By JAMES H. COLLINS

WILLIAM JAMES liked to explain philosophy with "low brow" words. He spoke of a "thick" and a "thin" view of life, and "thick" was good, as in a steak. He divided people into "tender" and "tough" minded—our old friends the optimist and pessimist. And he showed that we are happy when we have a "wide" field of consciousness, and have congenial work and many contacts, while the opposite state of worry is accompanied by a "narrow" field of consciousness.

* * *

Ten years ago a man of means passed away, leaving funds for an interesting purpose—the Harmon Foundation, of New York, which awards medals and money to blind persons who show ability in conquering their handicap. There are prizes for those who succeed in everyday home work, and in school, as well as for blind men and women who embark on a business or professional career in open competition with sighted folks.

It was William E. Harmon's belief that a contented spirit is important to a blind person, and he sought to provide it by a method that has succeeded with all kinds of people in all ages—giving the blind an audi-

ence, letting them know that somebody is interested in their struggle and success; helping them to a thicker slice of life.

* * *

Today, another kind of award would be helpful to the blind. There should be an audience, and honors, for business men who employ blind workers in the everyday tasks of factory and office. Read the story of the Crocker-Wheeler Company, in this issue of LIGHT, and see how the blind make good in many kinds of work—but realize how much faith, courage and patience is needed by business executives who employ them, and break down false ideas about their handicap.

* * *

LIGHT is a "foundation" in its own way. For, in this magazine we provide an audience for representative blind persons, letting their own stories show what they are capable of doing. And when an industrial concern employs the blind in modern tasks, we can supply an audience for that. Furthermore, by sending a Braille magazine to a needy blind reader, for every subscription received from a sighted reader, our subscribers join the "foundation" and help make the awards to the blind.



No accidents on these punch presses run by blind operators.



First group of blind employees, hired years ago.



When women made good, men were added to the sightless force.

Regular Factory Jobs for the Blind

The Faith of One Man Placed Sightless Workers
in the Big Crocker-Wheeler Electrical Plant

By JOHN MAPPELBECK

Photos courtesy Crocker-Wheeler Electric Manufacturing Company.

ABOUT the last place for a blind person to hunt a job—a modern electrical plant! For electricity is the most progressive of all industries, with some of the most complex tasks.

Yet, for many years, blind workers have been employed at the electrical apparatus factory of the Crocker-Wheeler Electric Manufacturing Company, at Ampere, New Jersey, and have made good.

The blind got their opportunity through the interest and faith of one man, Dr. Schuyler Skaats Wheeler, who died nine years ago, but whose work goes on.

"It began with a blind school, started by Dr. Wheeler as an experiment," writes F. A. Elshoff, Works Manager at Ampere, "and we still have a photograph of the first group of six blind women, who were employed in taping electrical coils. Dr. Wheeler was keenly interested and hopeful about this experiment, but it must be admitted that he did not receive a great deal of sympathy from others in our organization. Such an experiment was costly, and success seemed doubtful.

"However, Dr. Wheeler was very determined, and had fully decided that he

was going through with the school for the blind, and confident that the balance of the organization would ultimately give him full support—which they finally did.

"You can readily see why the balance of our organization did not feel confident about this work, though they might be sympathetic with it, as an experiment in human welfare. They were inexperienced with blind operators, and afraid that blind people would be injured in such a large industrial plant as ours.

"However, it was soon found out that the blind operators could perform many tasks just as well as sighted workers, and within two years we had a force of forty-four blind men and women working on many different operations."

* * *

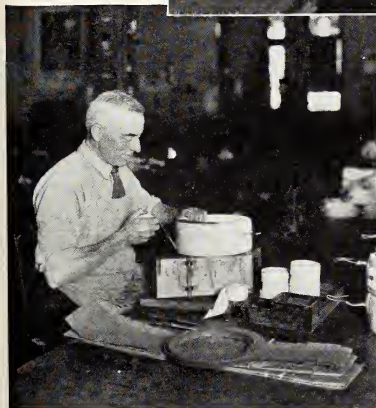
In this factory, blind men and women perform such operations as running punch presses, to cut and shape parts, and winding and taping coils for electrical apparatus. In the office, blind stenographers handle various kinds of correspondence, and one executive has a blind secretary.

Apart from selecting work within the strength and ability of blind people, no

distinctions seem to be shown. To the visitor, it might appear as though the blind were working at purely mechanical tasks. But such is not the case, for in work like winding coils it is necessary to be accurate and careful, and special skill has an opportunity to show itself, while experience increases skill. In punch press operations, blind operators keep track of their work and material, and are so careful that there has been no accident in their department in twelve years. In office duties, the same opportunities for careful work are found, and blind employees measure up to the opportunities. "We are now very much in sympathy with the blind," says Mr. Elshoff, "and we want to help in giving them occupation wherever it is possible.

"The principal difficulty is that industries as a whole are afraid to employ blind operators because they believe the blind will be a handicap to them, and may get injured. We have found at Ampere that on many operations the blind are just as valuable as sighted workers.

"All of the blind operators that we have employed have been capable of reading by the Braille method. Dr. Wheeler often purchased Braille books for them, on subjects in which they were interested. I am very pleased to know that institutions like the Braille Institute of America are organized to give the blind literature to read, as well as to extend their opportunities for employment. It is not pleasant to know that many blind men and women are reduced to charity. Many of our blind operators are supporting families, and educating their children, and we have always found that if the blind man is given an opportunity, he does not have to beg. Unfortunately, during the depression, we have not been able to keep all our blind operators working, but we have assisted those it was necessary to lay off, and will again employ all those who wish to return, and probably additional blind operators, when business improves. We are glad to do what we can to assist in better understanding and opportunities for the blind."



Blind "stenog" handling orders, marked by strings (upper). Skilled operator taping field coils (left). Winding coils for electric motors, another precision job (right).

What the Well-Dressed Blind May Wear

Here's How We Pick Out the Right Tie, Find
Our Shoes—And Who Washes and Dresses Us

By J. ROBERT ATKINSON

WERE I to name the two chief barriers in blindness, I should say Self-pity and Sensitiveness. The newly-blinded adult is usually very self-conscious. There are several reasons why, the chief one being sighted peoples' misconception of his problem and outlook on life. From the outset, he must wage a fierce fight against his own conception of himself as helpless, and being already obsessed with this suggestion, he is super-sensitive to such thoughts about him.

Due largely to the resourcefulness of the progressive blind themselves, it is gradually being recognized that the loss of eyesight, instead of being a terrible affliction, is only a physical handicap.

"What are some of the chief barriers encountered by the blind in minimizing their handicap?" is one of many questions I am often asked. There are perhaps as many answers as there are blind persons. For obviously, some are naturally more resourceful than others; and the fitness and ability to cope with the problem are by no means equally enjoyed by all.

In the past, the scarcity of good literature, printed in a form the blind might read for themselves, was a great barrier to their self-advancement, if not the chief obstacle to success and good citizenship. But now that this evil has been corrected to some extent, I believe that the chief barriers now confronting the blind in their heroic struggle of rehabilitation and for self-support are:

1. Lack of employment; 2. Lack of public confidence in their ability to help themselves, which in reality is largely due to their lack of employment. 3. Limitation in transporting themselves—although many have overcome this disadvantage, it is still a big barrier to others, particularly those blinded in mature life.

Humor is a panacea for ills of all kinds, those of physical blindness not excepted. Fortunately, many of the blind are able to see the ridiculous or humorous side of a situation growing out of their handicap.

Frequently the questions asked the blind by well-meaning people, unappreciative of their viewpoint and resourcefulness, are so childish, whimsical and impertinent, as to add insult to injury, were it not that the blind have learned to regard them humorously.

It would seem that most questions have



That soft rubber tag tells in Braille dots what suit to wear—Ralph D. Carson, blind soldier, and inventor of the tag.

Braille Institute photo

as their basis the conviction that the physical eyes are the only source of enlightenment to man, or the only staff on which to lean. The misconception of blindness by people in general is appalling, but remembering my own conception of blindness and blind people before losing my physical sight, I can be tolerant.

Mrs. Atkinson and I spent the night

with some friends in the country not long ago. Rural life does not always afford the advantages of the city, and our kind hostess, realizing this, appeared at our door with a kettle of hot water, saying to Mrs. A., "Here is some hot water for you to wash Bob's face with, and to shave him." That a blind man could wash his own face, shave himself at home or on a moving train, was to her incomprehensible.

For several years before my marriage, in 1920, I lived in a downtown Los Angeles hotel, where also I maintained an office. In my profession, I daily interviewed men and women of all classes. Strangers coming for the first time were received, interviewed and dismissed with such regularity and normalcy that often they went away not knowing that I was without sight. Others, knowing it, often said to friends that I must employ a valet. Of course, I was not that fortunate—or would you say unfortunate? "If not," they said, "then who grooms him, combs his hair, selects his attire, ties his cravat, looks after his laundering and tailoring, washes his face and shaves him?"

Now, people with sight do many things daily without using their eyes, by force of habit. Many a time I have saddled a wiry "cayuse" in pitch darkness, to go on guard duty, when it was impossible to see the saddle blanket or latigo buckle. Then why should I not tie my cravat, shave myself, shine my shoes if necessary, select my attire, take care of my wardrobe and wash my face, chew my food and breathe the proper amount of fresh air unassisted?

A blind man has discovered many tricks that the sighted person might never think of, in order to wear the right garments, at the right time, and in proper combination. He keeps his wardrobe methodically. In this respect his memory is a great asset. He usually knows just where his garments are and their color.

And recently a blind veteran, Ralph D. Carson, has invented soft rubber tags, with the words "black," "blue," "brown" and so forth, in Braille dots, to sew on our garments. They are washable, and make our selections absolutely correct. Mr. Carson is gradually placing these markers on sale in stores, over the country, and they are just the thing for the blind.

Had this blind soldier's invention come along a little earlier, I might have been spared a single embarrassing experience, that is not half as grave now as it was then:

One evening, friends invited me to dinner. In what I thought was the right attire, I arrived in due time, and the dinner went off very harmoniously.

Not until I arrived home did I discover that I was wearing one brown shoe and one black. Having two pairs of shoes identically the same style and size, one pair black and the other brown, both pairs having been worn about the same so that the difference could not be detected by the sense of touch, is the best alibi I can offer for the stupidity.

Twenty-five years ago when, for a time, I was a four-horse teamster in Montana, driving the "chuck wagon" for the "Triangle F" outfit, I had a fine pair of "wheelers"—one brown, the other black. It made no difference whether the one was placed on the "near" side, or on the "off" side, they worked together harmoniously. But in foot apparel, brown and black will not work together on either side, and there is no "near" side to it—both sides are "off." Sometimes brown and black form a fine combination, but not in shoes.

Later that same evening, I kept a very important business engagement, which for the most part was a rather stormy session, failing of its purpose. Naturally I am still wondering if the one brown shoe and one black was not the jinx.

Lions Clubs Subscribe for "Light"

To date, the following Lions Clubs have sent in their subscription for "Light," which have sent on their way free subscriptions for the "Braille Mirror" to needy blind:

Plainfield Lions Club, Plainfield, Ind.
Westbrook Lions Club, Westbrook, Maine.
Mott Lions Club, Mott, North Dakota.
Maplewood Lions Club, Maplewood, N. J.
Lakota Lions Club, Lakota, North Dakota.
Butler Lions Club, Butler, Pa.
Uptown Chicago Lions Club, Uptown Chicago, Ill.
Lions Club of Villa Park, Villa Park, Ill.
Lions Club of Santa Monica, Santa Monica, Calif.
West Chicago Lions Club, West Chicago, Ill.
Birmingham Lions Club, Birmingham, Ala.
San Jose Lions Club, San Jose, Calif.

A broad interest in books usually means a broad interest in life for the blind as well as the sighted.

Music Under a Double Handicap

For Ten Years, Helen Martin Has Been
a Pianist, Though Blind and Deaf

By JAMES H. COLLINS

COME, let's imagine—it exercises the old bean. Let's imagine that there were a couple of million people in the United States who had been born without sight or hearing.

Think of the special teachers they would command to instruct them, and the way they would get what they wanted in radio entertainment, and work, and so on, suited to their capacities. Why, they would be a power in the community! There might even be a political situation when, swinging their influence skilfully, they would elect a blind-deaf President!

Now, there happen to be only a couple of thousand such people in the country. Estimates—the census doesn't bother to count them.

They are so few in number that they have no influence. Less than two dozen teachers understand their special problems, and very often they are committed to homes for the feeble-minded, because, happening to be limited to three senses to contact the outer world, and express what is really inside them, the dear old bustling human race just pronounces them "dumb," and gets them out of the way. Which it wouldn't dare do if there were two million of them, with all their sisters, and their cousins, and their aunts, to vote for governors and county supervisors.

What is inside of a blind-deaf person—if anything? Radio? How can such an unstandardized being "get" music? Work? What on earth could such a one do?

Well, let's make the acquaintance of a live blind-deaf person, and find out. And you'll say she's alive!

* * *

Miss Helen May Martin is probably the only blind-deaf professional pianist in the world, giving paid recitals, and making her living by her art.

Born normal, she lost sight and hearing when a baby of eight days, and until she was nine years old, there were hopes of restoring her sight or hearing—hence many futile operations.

Her first teacher was her mother, who had to run a business to support Helen and her sister, Gertrude, their father having died. And it was her mother who discovered that Helen had an unusual sense of rhythm, and an inborn love of music. This love of music was the key to much of her early training. At eighteen, she went to the Kansas School for the Deaf, and in five years had done twice and three times as much work as is usually accomplished in that time.

Helen was born in Lincoln, Nebraska, but has lived much of her life in Kansas, where she feels most at home, despite her traveling on concert tours. The family home is now in the village of Merriam, near Kansas City.

"I am simply a natural musician," writes Helen herself, "and even the loss of sight and hearing cannot prevent my being one. I could play the piano as a little girl. Once, in school, when I was disgusted at not being allowed the use of a piano, I said that I was going to play a piano if it was the last thing I ever did."

She did not dream of becoming a professional musician, but the year after leaving school she had some lessons from a remarkable musician who could not see very well, and who thoroughly understood her, and saw possibilities for a career. When she decided to undertake the hard work of training, it was hard to get instruction in a small town. Her mother was busy in her millinery store, and Helen did all the housework, wove hair switches, did a lot of reading, and practised her music.

Her first concert was given ten years ago, and she has been playing in recitals ever since, living at different times in Chicago, Cincinnati, Nebraska and Texas, as her engagements demanded. She has never had a contract or a professional manager, but has played in churches, schools and clubs, and her mother and sister attended to business engagements.

How does she "hear" music?
Well, you'd be surprised!

At the piano, she "listens" with one of her feet. Not all pianos carry vibration well, she says, and sometimes her listening foot gets cold during a recital in a chilly hall.

Last year, Helen took up the harp, and after some lessons, learned to play well, and finds that the contact of her fingers with the strings is another way to listen.

Just to show what could be done for the blind-deaf if their number were larger, Dr. Robert Harvey Gault, psychologist



Helen May Martin

at Northwestern University, has invented the "telletractor," and Helen aided in his work, and with this device she can hear phonograph records, and by placing it on the floor, hear her own playing more clearly through her "listening foot." She says, however, that she was afraid that it would "spoil" her, so that she could not play without it. But Dr. Gault has done much scientific work in the development of speech and the language sense through touch, and the electrical and acoustical scientists who have developed radio, the talkie and the transatlantic telephone, are also interested in these problems.

Concert work keeps Helen very busy. The past summer she has played in Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota, traveling in a small car, driven by her sister, who also does the advance work—Gertrude is fourteen years younger than Helen, and a pianist, too.

Helen not only does all kind of housework, but likes it, and would be satisfied to stay at home, where she takes long tramps, and where, until lately, the country was still timbered. A deserted farm and an old cemetery are her favorite places in the neighborhood. She has a family of beautiful white cats, six of them, and they are great pals for a girl who has to enjoy life largely through her sense of touch.

She likes radio, and has a special set, with all-metal speaker and a vibration device, made for her as a gift by A. Atwater Kent. Kansas City business men gave her a Vose piano, as a surprise, and last Christmas she got a harp, the gift of C. Q. Chandler, a Wichita banker.

"So you see some wonderful things have happened to me," she says.

Frail, sensitive but energetic, she has copied a large library of music; reads all systems of embossed type; writes on the typewriter; loves books and reading; belongs to the Deaf Friendship Club, of Kansas City, but does not read lips; keeps up with conversation through her mother and sister, who communicate through her hand; speaks very well, in a high voice, so she can be understood after a little acquaintance.

Helen enjoys novel sights on her travels, such as the Northern lights seen recently in Wisconsin, and loves to hear the Indian legends of country through which she is passing.

Her greatest ambition is to interest the people of the United States in blind-deaf persons like herself, so that schools may be established, and they may have facilities for self-development. Her own road has been pleasant, in many ways, but it has also been hard, obstructed by lack of money for the special teaching and apparatus needed. Whenever possible, she calls attention to this tiny group of people, now widely scattered, and almost hopelessly lost in the kind but heedless mass that makes up the rest of us.

"Be sure it's the Braille Institute"

"A Blind Man to See You"

Thus Announced, This Blinded Salesman of
Typewriter Supplies Had to Overcome a Handicap

By THE EDITOR

MY two chief difficulties in sales work were, first, the difficulty in getting an audience with the purchasing agent, when the message was whispered, 'A blind man to see you,' and, second, the idea that a blind man, calling at a business place, expected a coin, instead of a chance to be of service. However, these obstacles were overcome by getting acquainted with prospective customers, and were not in evidence on subsequent visits."

So says Robert Brown, of Johnstown, Pennsylvania, who a year ago won a gold medal and two hundred dollars from the Harmon Foundation of New York, first prize for economic achievement. Nearly 500 sightless men, women and children, from the whole country, and Canada and the Philippines, entered this contest, in which numerous awards were made for economic achievements under handicap, literary work, adjustability to environment, and progress by children in schools for the blind. Mr. Brown also won second prize for his achievement in the first two years of blindness—for he was accidentally blinded by an explosion while working as a coal mining foreman. His first prize was won for achievement in open competition with sighted workers in the same kind of business.

Shortly before his accident, which happened when he was thirty-two, he had written a couple of articles for a coal mining journal, and received small checks from the editor. Finding himself penniless after a year of blindness, with a wife and three children, he began to sell typewriter ribbons and carbon paper, hiring boys to guide him. That was the start of a business which has grown, through his courage and activity, and which has purchased his home at 239 Stonycreek street, Johnstown, and educated his three children.

He is also the inventor of an improved Braille and script pocket slate, which was devised to meet his own business needs, and which has proved a welcome working

tool to many other sightless people in business.

"My boy-guides were timid about writing the orders I secured," he tells us, "so I sent for a Braille alphabet, and mastered the dot system to the extent of using a Braille slate three weeks later.

"For ten years I employed boy-guides, and then for four years traveled entirely alone through Western Pennsylvania, and over the borders of Ohio, Maryland and West Virginia. This experience made me more independent of human aid, and much more dependent upon Divine guidance. Recently, I have traveled via Ford, and my driver acts as guide, but as the other method strengthened me, maybe the latter will have the opposite tendency."

His early experience with purchasing agents, who had probably never been canvassed by a blind salesman, led him to declare that there is only one thing worse than having the public attach the idea of limitation to blindness—it is worse for



Robert Brown

the blind themselves to share this erroneous belief. While he has failed to find any advantage in blindness, he considers it not altogether a detriment, because it compels one to delve deeper into the realm of Nature and the spiritual world, and brings spiritual growth, which after all, is the only lasting compensation that one can gain.

He did not take naturally to saleswork. It has always required extreme effort on his part to overcome a natural desire to be a recluse. But he has gained by urging himself on, and he finds himself inspired when thoroughly warmed up to selling.

Not long ago, while he was writing an order on his Braille slate, in an office in the presence of a customer, a sympathetic traveling salesman silently laid a quarter before him. Mr. Brown felt the presence of the man, but did not know about the money. His customer tactfully picked up the coin, returned it to the charitable stranger, and introduced him to Mr. Brown. They became acquainted, the stranger developed into a customer.

"I may be a crank on the subject," he confesses, "but frankly I have nothing but pity for those who hold out the hand for charity—I pity anyone who cannot find a better way of support. Our chief difficulty lies, not in the fact that we are physically blind, but rather that the public believes us to be so, including all the limitations that the term 'blind' implies."

Mr. Brown's Braille slate has a place for writing with pencil, in addition to the dotted writing, so that business records written upon it can afterwards be looked up by either blind or sighted persons. This feature is an advantage to newly-blinded persons—they can write script, and at the same time have a mechanism for learning Braille. Braille writing may be done on both sides of the paper, and errors in Braille may be erased. Written sheets may be perforated for binding, and it has some of the advantages of the typewriter, such as automatic stops and feed rollers for the paper.

Young pianists from eighteen countries recently competed in Warsaw, Poland, and two of them were so brilliant that the choice had to be made by drawing lots. Alexander Uninski, a Russian emigré, won the draw, against Imre Ungar, a blind Hungarian pianist, the former being twenty-two years old, and the later twenty-three years.

The Passing of Matilda Ziegler

In September, a woman passed away in New York City, at the age of ninety-one years, who will be mourned by the blind. Mrs. Electa Curtis Ziegler had, for twenty-five years, published the **Matilda Ziegler Magazine** for the blind, a Braille periodical, circulated free. For twenty-two years Mrs. Ziegler paid \$22,000 annually to cover the expense, and then, in 1929, permanently endowed the magazine with a fund of \$600,000.

This magazine was founded originally because Mrs. Ziegler realized the difficulties of the blind. Her son, by a first marriage, had accidentally lost his sight early in life. The idea was suggested to her by a letter in a newspaper, written by Walter G. Holmes, who had a blind brother, and who urged an endowed magazine for the blind. Mr. Holmes became editor, and still holds that position.

Mrs. Ziegler's blind son, Charles C. Gamble, died in 1917. She was the widow of William Ziegler, founder of Royal Baking Powder, in which he made a fortune. Mr. Ziegler died in 1905, after they had been married twenty years.



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Bibles in Braille for the Blind

Although Size and Cost Have Been Greatly Reduced, Blind Bible Readers Still Need Aid

The entrance of Thy words giveth light. (Psalms 119)

THE complete King James version of the Bible is now published in Braille for the use of the blind, printed on both sides of the paper. By this process, both production cost and bulk are reduced from 30 to 40 per cent below the old method of printing on one side of the paper only.

The Old Testament forms sixteen volumes; the New Testament five, each 11 by 11 inches, durably bound in black Fabrikoid, with titles stamped on the covers in gold Roman letters and in Braille.

On the bottom line of each page, easily accessible to the fingers of blind readers, is printed the name of the Bible book, with the chapter and verses appearing on that page; and by a novel plan of numbering the verses themselves, a Braille reader can find any desired passage easily and quickly. Blind ministers say that it is a delight to use this systematically arranged Bible.

The distribution cost of one Braille Bible in twenty-one volumes is about \$8 a volume, or approximately \$165 complete. If published commercially, the selling price would be considerably more.

Obviously, some provision must be made to sustain the difference between the distribution cost and what the blind are able to pay, if the blind are to be supplied with Bibles. This is being accomplished through the voluntary contributions of the public. With the financial help of many generous friends all over the world, any Braille reader can purchase this Bible at the special price of \$1 a volume, prepaid to any address in the world. If the blind cannot pay even this price, volumes will be sent absolutely free. More Bibles are distributed on this basis than are sold.

The following letter is only one of



A Braille reader, searching the Scriptures; the complete King James Version of the Bible, in twenty-one-volumes, is shown in the cases to the left.

many that might be cited showing how the blind appreciate this service:

Birmingham, Alabama, Sept. 7, 1932.

Braille Bible Society, Inc.,
Los Angeles, California.
Gentlemen:

Thank you very much for the gift of the Bible volumes, Genesis and Isaiah. You could not have pleased me better in your selection of books. From a child I have loved Genesis and I learned to appreciate Isaiah in my school days.

It seems wonderful to me that through your kindness I now possess the New Testament and two books in the Old in perfect condition. They mean more to me than anything else I have ever possessed. I guard them as my most precious treasure. I hope there will never come a day when I shall have to think of my Bible as worn and tear-stained, however many tears of gratitude I may shed when reading and pondering over its mysteries!

May God prosper your work and give me a chance to pass on the happiness which you have given me.

Yours sincerely,
T. P.

Contributions to help with this work are earnestly solicited and will be promptly receipted for. If you find it within your desire to help, your contribution for any sum will be greatly appreciated. It should be addressed to Braille Bible Society, Inc., 739 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

Further information upon request.

Will the Blind See Through the "Electric Eye?"

A Vienna surgeon, Dr. Fritz Guggi, lost his sight several years ago, in a motor accident. When he learned that the optic nerve leading from the retina to the brain was undamaged, he set to work to find some artificial means of restoring his sight.

A distinguished architect and inventor, Joseph Gartigruber, also of Vienna, had for some years been experimenting with the photo-electric cell, or "electric eye." When Dr. Guggi heard of this, the two men decided to combine their efforts, to find some way of making the "electric eye" act as a substitute for the natural eye in gathering impressions for the optic nerve and brain.

After many experiments on himself and other blind persons, Dr. Guggi now announces that images received by the electric eye can be transmitted in the form of sight, though at present the images are blurred. The apparatus resembles large thick spectacles, and is far from perfect, and Dr. Guggi refuses to make predictions that may later prove disappointing, but he believes that good results are more than probable, and says that many of the technical difficulties have been overcome.

The electric eye is one of the most efficient of recent inventions, a small, simple vacuum tube, not unlike a radio tube, very sensitive to light impulses, and used in many industrial plants to control processes, inspect products and perform countless automatic duties without human supervision.

The Hardest Thing for a Blinded Man

"Don't let your family set you in a corner and wait on you hand and foot," writes a blinded man to others who may be more recently blinded. "Be independent! I wash, dress, bathe and shave myself, take care of my linen, brush clothes and shine shoes. I answer the door and telephone—do odd jobs such as putting washers on water spigots, taking off wall paper, sand-papering and doing any other odd job, as though normal. Learn to feed yourself. I say 'learn,' because that was one of the most difficult things for me to do. Have someone read to you daily papers, magazines, books, and have a radio. Get diversified programs. Keep in touch with local, state, national and world affairs. All of this you will find most helpful."

Patronize our advertisers; they pay the publishing cost of "Light."

Voting by the Blind

The following is a reprint of an editorial which appeared in the Los Angeles Herald-Express, September 22, 1932:

"At the coming election, blind citizens, if registered, may cast their ballots in California as freely as if they were not handicapped by the loss of sight.

"There are several ways in which blind persons may exercise the franchise. If they wish, they can vote by mail. In such case they must apply to the office of the registrar of voters between October 19th and November 3rd, and ballots will be sent them. The ballots, filled out, must be returned and be in the office of the registrar by November 14th in order to be counted.

"If they would prefer to go to the polls, they may take a friend who will be permitted to enter the booth with them and assist them. If no friend accompanies them, two members of the election board will assist them in the booth, marking the ballot as they dictate.

"Let it be clearly understood, no blind citizen need lose his or her vote, if registered, provided one of these courses be followed."

Nearly all of the states in the union have provided, by law, for special assistance to blind voters. In the majority of states this aid must be given by election officers, but in Alabama, California, Colorado, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio and Pennsylvania the sightless voter may choose his own assistant at the poll far from among his friends.

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Our Own "Better Business Bureau"

It Seeks Jobs Instead of Charity for the Blind

—How a Blinded Salesman Went Back to Work

WE have a "Better Business for the Blind Bureau" which is teeming with activity, in spite of limited funds. This bureau deals with the problems of blind men and women yearning for employment—not charity, but a chance!—and others who need financial advice and aid in establishing business enterprises, such as news and cigar stands. Blind people can become resourceful and self-reliant. All they need is a little encouragement and capital.

Here is a typical story from recent experience.

Some time ago, a blinded man applied for help. Our agent called at his home, found he had been a successful salesman and sales manager before losing his sight; had a wife and five children; was then being taken care of by a public charity; had lately undergone a surgical operation that restored his sight with special glasses; had no money to buy glasses.

He wanted help to get glasses, and a line of merchandise to sell as a canvasser. He needed clothes, too.

We got glasses, outfitted him with two good suits of clothes, and helped get merchandise. Today he is back on his way to independence. Our agent says he will never forget the expression on this man's face as he put on his glasses and, for the first time in several years, again saw things around him.

It is more of such work that we hope to do in the future.

"Light" is a Revenue Earner

Through the revenue received from subscriptions for "Light" at three dollars a year, we have within the last two months placed many free subscriptions for "The Braille Mirror." Many of these represent renewals for subscribers who have been paying for the magazine since its inception seven years ago, but who wrote us regretfully that on account of economic conditions they would have to forego the pleasure of receiving the magazine until times were better. It was felt that these above all others were worthy of help, having plunked down their cash willingly as long as they could. "Light" would like to share with its subscribers who have made this possible the grateful letters received from these recipients, but space will not permit.

How the Blind "See" Football

Many of the blind are enthusiastic football fans. These can see the games through the radio as well as anyone with sight. For this reason the September number of the "Braille Mirror" presents a Braille diagram of the gridiron, with a word picture briefly explaining the game. This contribution, appearing at the opening of the 1932 football season, will be warmly welcomed by many Braille readers, and particularly by Jimmy Burns, a blind lad of about twelve years, who lets nothing pull him away from the radio on Saturdays during the football season. Jimmy reads humor for us at our open house, and when we want his assistance we know better than to hold our reception on Saturday afternoon during the football season.

Our Own Blind Workers

Five blind workers are now permanently employed in our office and factory. After serving their apprenticeship, these receive living wages. In co-operation with the State Department of Rehabilitation, we also give employment to the handicapped who after serving their apprenticeships are paid wages that make them quite independent. About fifteen of this class are now employed. It requires about six months instruction to qualify employees for efficient service in the composing room and proof reading departments, and as a rule when the blind and otherwise handicapped have qualified they make the most dependable and efficient employees—probably because they appreciate their jobs more than do the able bodied.

Semi-Monthly News for the Blind

Our Braille monthly, "The March of Events," has been broadened editorially, and its publication date advanced to the first of each month. "The Braille Mirror," our other magazine for the blind, has been scheduled to appear the fifteenth of each month. A department in each magazine, popular with blind readers, offers a digest of world-wide news. By staggering the publication dates, the blind thus have a semi-monthly news service.

Braille in Thirteen Lessons

Although our Home Teaching Department has been operating for only a short time, and funds are limited, our teacher has ten pupils enrolled, and lately graduated No. 11, a man who, at the age of 55, mastered the Braille system of reading in only thirteen lessons. Other teachers had told this blinded man that it would be impossible for him to master it. He is now reading everything he can get, and his outlook on life has been correspondingly transformed.

The Story of the Braille Institute

IN 1912, a Montana cowboy lost his sight by accident, almost instantly. Always a reader, he mastered Braille, and then looked around for books that would help him to a business education. Such books were rare; and the blind had only one magazine to keep them posted on the world's affairs.

Starting in a garage back of his Los Angeles home, in 1920, J. Robert Atkinson made a beginning with the Universal Braille Press, printing books on machinery partly of his own invention. Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear, philanthropists aided him financially.

In 1926 he launched a monthly magazine called "The Braille Mirror," dealing with current affairs; and in 1930, its companion called "March of Events" which contains a digest of world news. Through staggering the publication dates of these two magazines, the blind now have a semi-monthly news service.

The Braille Institute of America was incorporated under the laws of California, to finance reading matter for the blind, through an endowment fund, deposited under a trust, with a strong financial institution. Founded primarily to extend the activities of the Universal Braille Press, this name will be perpetuated as the trade name of the Institute's printing department, both being operated on a non-profit basis.

The magazines published by the Braille Institute are read by blind subscribers all over the United States, and by many blind readers in foreign countries as well. The Braille books published by this institution are deposited in libraries over the whole country, and also other lands.

So the work of the Braille Institute of America is broadly national, and international, in the interests of blind persons everywhere, and is non-sectarian, and truly humanitarian.

Visitors are always welcome at the Braille Institute, and its printing plant, 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles—telephone OLympia 1121. The story of this institution, told more fully, will be mailed to any reader who asks for it.

Patronize our advertisers; they pay the publishing cost of "Light."

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To Discuss Opportunities

The latest developments in work for the blind will be discussed at the two-day session of the New York State Federation of Workers for the Blind, at their biennial convention, October 14 and 15, at the Brooklyn Bureau of Charities, Brooklyn, New York.

More than a hundred workers, representing fifteen New York State organizations aiding the blind, will be present, and visits to the three Brooklyn agencies for the blind will take up one morning.

The results of the World Conference for the Blind will be summarized in an address by Robert B. Irwin, blind executive director of the American Foundation for the Blind, who will also speak on "Talking Books."

Present-day placement of the blind is to be covered by C. L. Broun, placement agent of the New York State Commission for the Blind. Vocational guidance is the subject of the blind attorney, Benjamin Berinstein, and other speakers will deal with the subject of work, training and opportunities for the blind from different angles, the speakers being in all cases experienced workers and teachers in this important and widening field.

Hundreds Visit the Braille Institute

Over 500 people have visited the Braille Institute and have been guided through its printing department this year.

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How to Be Popular in Blind Society

Here Are a Dozen Things to Do, and Not a Single "Don't", to Speed Your Social Career

ONE of the hardest adjustments a blind person has to make is with sighted people. It is bad enough to be blind, but it's tougher to be taken for a dummy. And sighted people seem to think that loss of sight means also the complete loss of hearing, absolute paralysis of the ability to talk and understand ordinary speech, and even a total bankruptcy in common sense.

Now, blindness does not even affect one's sense of humor. It is apt to put a razor edge upon that! Blind persons are thoroughly clubable. But they carry an awful burden in trying to make sighted people be themselves.

So, by way of making acquaintance easy and pleasant for everybody concerned, the following suggestions are offered by the blind to the sighted:

1. In approaching a blind person, always speak to him—it enables him to identify you.

2. Always shake hands on meeting and leaving—that is your smile to the blind.

3. Introduce a blind person to everybody in the room, and tell him who they are.

4. Watch out for a blind person's fingers in closing doors—losing fingers is like losing another pair of eyes.

5. Talk of blindness without hesitation, but do not make it a discussion—blind people prefer the weather. Talk about sights and seeing as usual—the blind will "get" you.

6. Blind persons do not care for sympathy—they are handicapped, but not afflicted.

7. Nor do they care for astonishment about unusual things they do, such as telling time by a watch—that is all in their day's work.

8. If you were blind, and strangers talked loud in the belief that you were also deaf, or asked through a third person whether you took sugar in your tea—wouldn't it get your goat?

9. Lead a blind person, let him take your arm, the movement of your body tells him what to expect. Do not try to carry him, or push him ahead of you. Put his hand on railings and chairs. Walk straight so he can keep his reckoning. Tell him when to step up or down.

10. Your blind guest will take care of himself, and be no responsibility, if you show him a few simple things, such as the location of rooms and light switches—he may want to light some sighted person. Half open doors are the most dangerous obstacle the blind encounter, so keep doors either closed or wide open. And keep halls clear of unusual obstacles.

11. Blind persons have no "sixth sense," but do develop unusual hearing, feeling and memory, by concentration on those things.

12. Just be yourself with the blind, and never patronizing. Chances are, your blind friend lost his sight after reaching maturity. There are plenty of regular fellows of both sexes among the blind!

Bequests for the Blind

Recently, during the preparation of wills for clients, two Los Angeles attorneys called up the Braille Institute of America by telephone, and made inquiries about its work, and forms of bequests. In both cases the clients wished to leave money for work among the blind, and had intentions upon which we were able to give practical advice, from our experience. Information of this kind is given promptly and willingly, and without bias.

A lot of money, \$100,000 a year—until you begin to reckon how far it will go in printing books for the 120,000 blind persons in this rich country, which spends so liberally on education of every kind. But it is less than a dollar a year per person. Measure the amount of reading matter a dollar will purchase in ink-print, and you see that it will buy one magazine, not the best, or one book in a cheap edition, and it will not pay for a daily paper.

This is the amount Uncle Sam appropriates for Braille literature—and it is not enough.

BRAILLE

By a Blind Student

Faltering, blumfling,
O'er the strange signs,
My fingers are stumbling
Trying with all my might
I spell out words aright
As children do,
Learning to read anew,
By touch, not sight.

Faster and faster,
O'er the strange words,
My fingers are gliding,
Then sentences come
And the victory won!
Open flies the door,
I thought closed evermore,
Into precious Bookland
Where old friends I meet,
And dear friends I greet,
With a touch of the hand.

From Homer to Helen Keller

The blind have always been with us, but only in the past couple of centuries have we done anything about making them happy and useful.

In his book, "From Homer to Helen Keller," a social and educational study of the blind, *Richard Slayton French* tells the story of advancement from exploitation to present-day training. As Principal of the California School for the Blind, he is well qualified to tell it, and the lay reader will find his book clear and interesting.

There is an introductory chapter showing how much the term "blind" covers in the different degrees of the handicap. Then follow a historical section, with the personal stories of people like Helen Keller, Laura Bridgeman, Louis Braille, Valentin Haüy and other famous blind people and innovators of reforms for the blind. The last section of the book is headed "Chiefly Critical," and the author examines educational methods, occupations, organization and propaganda for the blind, not in the sense of fault-finding, but in the scientific spirit of "How could it be done better?" Mr. French's book is published by the American Foundation for the Blind, New York, and has 283 pages, a bibliography and index, and five full page portraits.

New Books for the Blind

(Printed on the presses of the Braille Institute of America, Inc.)

Owen D. Young, by Ida M. Tarbell, 2 vols., cost \$10.78, selling price \$7.70.

The Harbourmaster, by William McFee, 4 vols., cost \$12.60, selling price \$11.50.

Principles of Sociology, by Franklin H. Giddings, 5 vols., cost \$27.50, selling price \$13.70.

American Political Ideas, by Charles E. Merriam, 4 vols., cost \$21.47, selling price \$14.35.

In Search of Scotland, by H. V. Morton, 3 vols., cost \$11.32, selling price \$9.20.

In Search of England, by H. V. Morton, 2 vols., cost \$8.55, selling price \$7.15.

Union Portraits, by Gamaliel Bradford, 2 vols., cost \$10.25, selling price \$5.35.

Confederate Portraits, by Gamaliel Bradford, 2 vols., cost \$9.60, selling price \$5.00.

Introduction to the Industrial and Social His-

tory of England, by Edward P. Cheyney, 4 vols., \$18.90, selling price, \$10.30.

Faraway, by J. B. Priestley, 4 vols., \$13.95, selling price \$12.40.

Our Wonderland of Bureaucracy, by James M. Beck, 3 vols., cost \$11.95, selling price, \$8.60.

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, by Matthew Josephson, 6 vols., in press, selling price \$19.00.

The United States of America, by David Saville Muzzey, 14 vols., in press, selling price, \$42.00.

Poems of Sidney Lanier, edited by his wife, 2 vols., in press, selling price \$5.00.

For twelve years after blindness overtook him, in 1920, Dr. Edwin Brant Frost continued his scientific work at the Yerkes astronomical observatory, Lake Geneva, Wisconsin, and only recently did he retire, at sixty-five, concluding a long career as an astronomer, astrophysicist, editor, teacher and philosopher.

Cook Book for the Blind

One of the first cook books to be put into Braille (perhaps it is the first) has been published by the United States Government to meet a genuine long-felt want of blind women all over the country.

This is "Aunt Sammy's Radio Recipes," published by the United States Department of Agriculture.

Many blind women are excellent cooks, and their kitchens are always in apple-pie order because they have to know where everything can be found. Braille recipes are a great help, and blind cooks can arrange through their nearest public library to buy the Braille cook book at a nominal price, none being sold direct.

News-Reel Features Printing for the Blind

"How Six Dots Bring Light to the Blind" is the caption of a talking news-reel made in the printing department of the Braille Institute of America, by the Universal News Reel Service, featuring all the operations in producing books and magazines in Braille for the use of the blind.

The news-reel, which is receiving world-wide bookings, is a feature of "Strange as it Seems" series No. 20. Our friends may see it at the following theatres:

Grand Theatre	Douglas, Ariz.	Oct. 18
Hemet Theatre	Hemet, Calif.	Oct. 21 and 22
Sunbeam Theatre . . .	6525 Compton Ave. . .	Oct. 25-27
Dreamland Theatre . .	3021 S. Main St. . . .	Nov. 13 and 14
Covina Theatre	104 N. Citrus, Covina . .	Nov. 13-15
Granada Theatre . . .	130 W. Main, Alhambra .	Nov. 16 & 17
Virginia Theatre . . .	Bakersfield, Calif. . .	Dec. 10 and 11

An Opportunity to Buy a Practical Christmas Gift for the Blind

Now is the time to buy a blind friend a Braille book at greatly reduced prices. We have many interesting titles of fiction and biography on hand to choose from. Stop in early and look over the list at the Braille Institute of America, 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles—or telephone OLYMPIA 1121, or write for a list and practical suggestions.

And Her Dividends Never Stopped

Where the Shrewdest Bankers Failed,
a Woman Got Returns on \$1,000,000



WHAT would one do if he had a million dollars? You have your ideas, and I have mine, but the first day I'd put a lot of names of blind readers on our free mailing list for our two Braille magazines. Readers who have always read them, and still want them, but now—no sufficient funds.

It can be done for about a million, because a grand woman who passed away in New York, just the other day, at the age of 91, did it for a little more. Matilda Ziegler sent her Braille magazine to blind people free, and it cost her \$22,000 a year for 22 years. Then she set aside \$600,000 to keep it going after her own passing. So you see she had some change left from \$1,100,000.

Speaking of investments, and what has happened to the wisest of them the past three years, where would you find a shrewder investor than Matilda Ziegler? During the depression, her dividends of gratitude never stopped.

Well, you and I have no million, but this is a market in which you can pick up fractional shares of gratitude.

Would you care to buy an odd lot outright and hold it for the dividends? Then write a check for three dollars, and send it to me for a year's subscription to "Light," and I will immediately put a needy blind reader on my free mailing list to receive a Braille magazine, on your behalf. You can name the blind person if you wish. This is the preferred stock, non-assessable, dividend guaranteed.

The Subscription Man

Two Magazines for the Price of One... LIGHT for You... and a Braille Magazine to a Blind Reader

LIGHT is a magazine you will want to read regularly. Because, it brings you face to face with ambitious blind people, and gives you some of their courage and cheerfulness.

We have an attractive subscription offer.

Send us **THREE DOLLARS** for one year for LIGHT, for yourself—eight issues. We will then back up your subscription with a free subscription for a Braille magazine for some blind reader who wants it, but is unable to pay.

If you wish to name the blind reader to receive the Braille magazine, we will send it to the person you designate.

Two good magazines for the price of one, and two readers made happy.

DO IT TODAY!

Seen With Half an Eye

"Does your wife use your best razor to open cans?"
 "Oh, yes—but I use her best powder puff for a shoe polisher."

"I hear your son is getting on."
 "I'll say so! Two years ago he wore my old suits—and now I wear his."

"Many a girl who says that she wouldn't marry for money, cherishes the secret wish that Cupid will shoot her with a Pierce-Arrow."

A teacher was giving his class a lecture on charity. "Willie," he said, "if I saw a boy beating a donkey, and stopped him from doing so, what virtue should I be showing?"
 Willie (promptly)—"Brotherly love."

"Dad, how do they catch lunatics?"
 "With face powder, rouge, beautiful dresses and pretty smiles, my son."

"I'll give you a nickel for a kiss," said a visitor to the little daughter.
 "No, thank you," she said sweetly, "I can make more money taking castor oil."

Mister: "Do you say your prayers every night, Oswald?"
 "No—some nights I don't want anything."—Tit Bits (London).

A chap was arrested for assault and battery. The judge asked him his name, occupation, and what he was charged with.
 "My name is Sparks, I am an electrician, and I am charged with battery."
 "Officer, put this man in a dry cell."

The Kid: "Pop, how soon will I be old enough to do as I please?"

Pop: "I don't know. No one has lived that long yet."

Four animals went to the circus, a duck, a pig, a frog and a skunk. All got in but one. The duck had a bill; the pig had four quarters; the frog had a greenback; but the skunk only a scent, and that was a bad one.

Mrs. Margaret Wilson, blind since birth, stood on a busy street corner in Berkeley, California, recently, waiting for someone to help her across the intersection. A man stepped up and asked, "May I go across with you?"
 "I'd be very glad if you would," replied Mrs. Wilson.

Safely across the street the man thanked her, but Mrs. Wilson wanted to thank the man.

"You know," the man continued, "when one has been blind as many years as I have it's a mighty big favor to have someone help him across the street."

Russia Educating the Blind

One of the results of the atrocious conditions existing in Tsarist Russia was that there were more blind people there than in any other country of Europe or America, says the magazine Soviet Russia Today. The improvement in the material and cultural conditions since the Revolution has tremendously decreased the number of blind people. The blind now enjoy equal economic, political and social rights with all other Soviet citizens and they are actively participating in the construction of Socialism. At the end of 1932 there will be 50,000 blind persons working in over sixty different branches of industry and agriculture, as a result of a very thorough educational course reaching to higher education. The radio is extensively used in the education of the blind. Illiteracy among the blind has been almost completely liquidated.

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A New Magazine in "Moon" Type

The Braille Institute First in This Country
to Meet Special Needs of Newly-Blinded Readers

A NEW magazine will soon be added to the publications for the blind issued by the Braille Institute of America—one meeting an unsatisfied need of many blind persons in the United States.

This magazine will be chiefly a digest of current events, in the "Moon" type, for newly-blinded people, of middle age, who have not yet mastered Braille.

Here is a specimen of Moon type—it makes a sentence reading, "This is an ink-print specimen of Moon type," and the sighted reader will easily see the resemblance to Roman capital letters, of which the Moon system is a simplification:

2 1 / 1 / A N)
 (N 1 \ < < N 1)
 (- / < F (1 7)
 (O 7 P O N F)
 O N - J < F ..

The Moon system was devised by William Moon, in 1847, an Englishman who completely lost his sight at twenty-one. It is embossed direct from moveable metal plates, and is composed of three kinds of letters—eight unaltered Roman letters, thirteen other simplified letters, five new letters, and the remainder of the alphabet consisting of three pairs of letters.

There has been a demand for Moon printing, from elderly blinded readers, and by training the fingers, the system aids in the mastery of Braille. But since Moon's day, this system has been a monopoly in Europe, and its use here has necessitated the invention of new equipment. Mr. Atkinson has lately turned his inventive abilities to meeting the demand for Moon literature in the United States, and the new magazine will

be the first achievement of the kind in this country. As was the case with Mr. Atkinson's Braille printing, the production of Moon literature will be done with improvements over the process followed in Europe.

Our Own Who's Who

Although Arthur L. Sonderegger was born in Switzerland, and is an engineering graduate of the Swiss Polytechnic University, at Zurich, he has been a consulting Engineer in Los Angeles since 1904—twenty-eight years give him rank with the pioneers!

Mr. Sonderegger is treasurer as well as one of the trustees of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., and has been interested in work for the blind since 1920, when his friendship with Mr. Atkinson led him to aid and advise in the latter's first steps to develop Braille literature along new lines. The needs and the possibilities made a strong appeal to his technical mind, and he has found satisfaction in the work ever since.



Arthur L. Sonderegger

Professionally, Mr. Sonderegger has been connected with some of the outstanding water and irrigation works in the Southwest—the Imperial Valley, Coachella Valley, Pine Canyon, Pasadena, Colorado River, Metropolitan Aqueduct, San Diego and other projects.

He is a member of the State Consulting Board for Southern California, of the Water and Power Resources Committee, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, and of the University Club, Engineers Club, Municipal League of Los Angeles, and consulting engineer for Metropolitan Water District, the Water Conservation Association of Riverside, and of the water departments of Los Angeles, Pasadena, San Marino and various other cities and water districts. He is also President of the Los Angeles Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Barely a dozen years ago, there were five distinct systems of raised-letter printing for the blind in common use.

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LIGHT



Since losing his sight, four years ago, this blinded Austrian ex-officer and bank executive has invented a new art of wire sculpture (See Page 4).



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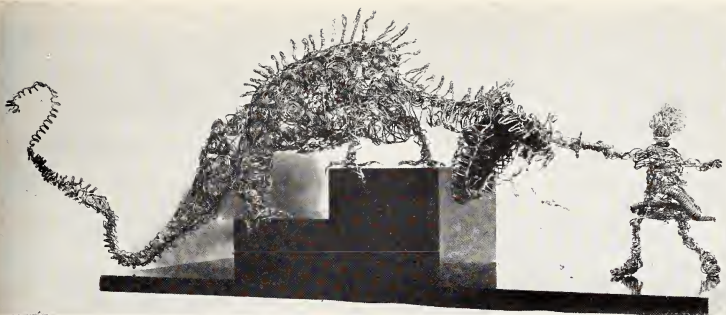
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Out of his own inner world, the blind sculptor Berthold Ordner shares creations like this "Siegfried and the Dragon," in the Valentin Haüy Museum, Paris (See Page 4).

Contents for November-December, 1932

Flowers of Gratitude	3
From An Inner Fairyland, by James H. Collins	4
"What Great Big Eyes You Have!" by Charline Bell	6
Our Two Braille Magazines, by J. Robert Atkinson	8
Bible Page	10
What to Do for "Near-Sightedness," by Herbert S. Marshutz	12
The Blind Believe in Santa Claus	14
Seen With Half an Eye	15
Dickens Wrote Her Story	16

Activities of the Braille Institute of America

Sponsorship of BOOKS and MAGAZINES, published in Braille, for the use of the blind, on a non-profit basis and free to the blind unable to pay.

Free HOME TEACHING of the blind in the mastery of the Braille system.

Maintenance of a FREE LENDING REFERENCE LIBRARY, being stocked with business journals, guides and numerous books on all vocations, trades and professions, followed by the blind, including works on the principles of insurance, commercial law, real estate, business ethics, social and political economy, salesmanship, journalism, and many other subjects.

BUREAU of BETTER BUSINESS for the BLIND to assist blind adults in choosing a trade, profession or business suitable to their talents.

SCHOLARSHIPS for vocational and higher education in branches of the trades and professions found practical for the blind, such scholarship to provide readers also when necessary.

BUSINESS FINANCE to finance the blind business men and women by way of loans under supervision of the Braille Institute Trustees, until they are permanently and successfully established.

To engage in all other HUMANITARIAN efforts incidental to the social, industrial, professional and literary welfare of the blind not being covered by other agencies, public or private.

Our Magazines: "LIGHT"—a success magazine of the blind; the "BRAILLE MIRROR" and "MARCH OF EVENTS", Braille monthlies for the blind, with semi-monthly news service.

The Braille Institute of America, Inc.

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LIGHT

To further acquaint sighted people with the ambitions and success of the blind, and enlist aid in meeting their problem of securing good reading matter.

Published eight times a year by Braille Institute of America, Inc.
741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California

\$3 a year—every subscription turned into a free subscription for a Braille magazine to a needy blind reader

James H. Collins, Editor

J. Robert Atkinson, Associate Editor

Jerry M. Nesbitt, Business Manager

VOL. 4

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER, 1932

NOS. 7-8

Flowers of Gratitude

By J. ROBERT ATKINSON

"YES, sir, I can make a modest livelihood, selling useful commodities, if I can just get enough ahead to pay for a license," said a blind man who applied recently for help to the Bureau of Better Business for the Blind of the Braille Institute of America.

Shabbily dressed, and showing signs of under-nourishment, he made a pathetic picture. He was a man of middle age, with a little sight in one eye, not enough to be of any benefit to him in productive labor, too much to entitle him to State aid, even had he been a resident of California long enough to be eligible for it. Nor was he eligible for help from the County charities. His honesty, sincerity and desire to earn a legitimate living, if given a chance, were obvious.

"I have been arrested twice," the blind man frankly confessed. "Yes, arrested twice for selling articles without a license. And thrown in jail, too! I wanted to get a license, but simply did not have the price, so with me it was a case of either violating the law or starving."

* * *

"And what do you want the Braille Institute's Better Business Bureau to do for you?" was the inquiry.

The answer was straightforward.

"If you will only get a canvasser's license for me, for a period of three months, which will remove the restraint from fear of arrest, I know

I can make enough to live on during that time, and save enough not only to repay you, but also to renew the license. It will cost \$7.50."

The man was given enough money to tide him over until the next day, when the Institute's agent could procure the license for him. Having done this he was sent on his way, but not until he had been fitted out with a good suit of clothes and other needed garments. A few days later he returned voluntarily to give an accounting of his stewardship. In his hands was a modest, but beautiful bouquet of flowers, and on his countenance an expression of independence and self-respect.

"I'm getting along fine," he said, "and I have brought you this bunch of flowers given to me by a friend who is a florist. I myself am a good florist; worked at it until my sight failed, and I think I could still make good in the game if given a chance. I just want you to accept this little offering, as a token of gratitude for what you have done for me until I am able to pay you back."

How many would have gone out of their way, spent carfare from their meagre earnings, to express gratitude in exchange for a little kindness? And without pretense or patronage he went on his way, happy that he had the chance of helping himself, and promising to report again later on.

From an Inner Fairyland

These Strange Wire Creatures Live in
The Mind World of a Blinded Banker

By JAMES H. COLLINS

THEY look queer at first, these ragged little men and monsters, made of wire. Seeing things at night! Nothing like them has been made before. But get acquainted with them, and they reveal an "aliveness" of their own. Because, they are creatures from the inner world of an artist who did not materialize them for you until he lost his eyesight.

"We forget that he is blind," says a London art expert, "and remember only that he is an artist who lives in a fairyland of men and animals and dragons."

Here is the story of the little wire warriors and hippogriffs:

Berthold Ordner was born in Vienna, in 1889, and his father, a goldsmith, urged him to become a business man instead of an artist. So, after finishing school, Berthold entered a bank. But all his spare hours were spent in art museums, and in studying, collecting and modeling statuary.

He was twenty-five when the World War began, and he marched away to the Russian front as an Austrian officer. Several times he was wounded, and later nearly lost his life in an avalanche on the Italian front. When the war ended, the first period of his life also ended—he had found much to like in the career of a soldier.

Back into a bank, where he soon rose to an executive position, and was enjoying a second career. Then, in 1925, the bank failed, and he was thrown on the world again.

A nervous breakdown followed, with the loss of his sight, and four years ago Berthold Ordner found himself shut up at home, his life of sports

and business definitely ended, and a third period beginning.

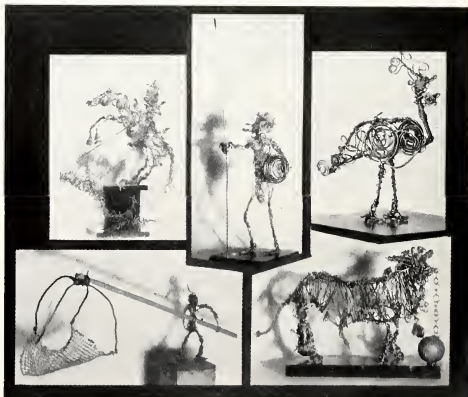
Forced to draw upon his inner resources, he went back to the artist's longing of boyhood, and again took up modeling. After experiments in clay and plaster, which were expensive as well as messy, he conceived these little wire sculptures as his medium of expression. With his business training, he soon won attention. Today, his work is found in many European art museums, and some of his creations have come to America.

"I am on the way to be happy," he writes. "Out of the ruins of the first two breakdowns a new life is flourishing. Maybe a more silent, but a more happy one. I live completely with my art. I am on the highest point of my life again. I hope that the third period of my life will not end as the first two."

* * *

Last summer Mr. Ordner talked about his work over one of the German radio stations, and from a copy of his talk we can hear his own story, in his own words, for he has translated it into English, which he writes with ease.

"At first, blindness affected me im-



mentally, and depressed me in mind and soul. But brain-racking did not help me in the least, and it needed great self-restraint to accustom myself to my unhappy state. The next step was to seek some fitting occupation. Among the blinded, only those will be content who find satisfaction in work which helps them to overcome their sufferings.

"Sculptural art has given me even more than I expected. It was the only occupation that I considered. The essentials for a blind man are the feeling and memory of what he has seen before loss of sight. Naturally, one cannot attempt large compositions, nor compete with a sighted artist. But my aim was fulfilled when I was able to pass some hours of the day, and moreover, awaken the interest of the onlooker. Experience taught me that my work did not betray that it had been done by a non-seeing person.

"One conceives of a blind person as weak and clumsy, but that this is often not the case is proved by the fact that prominent blind men have lived in all times, and have created great things in every branch of intellect. I even believe that a blind man is not easily dissuaded from his work, and shows a greater zeal and eagerness in it. This eagerness is founded on the fact that he who does not see will meet with much greater difficulties when creating an artistic work than a normal man. He who does not see must find out things for himself by long and weary feeling and touching. This explains the greater diligence which the blind man uses in his work.

"As long as I was in possession of my sight, the contemplation of plastic art was full of joy for me, and my interest was unflagging, even after I became blind. When I was convinced that, in my state, I must turn my thoughts to other things, I naturally chose that which had offered so much to me formerly.

"After various trials with different materials, I decided to use brass wire, of various thicknesses. My only tools are pliers and pincers. Before beginning any work, I conceive it fully. Then I form with wire the picture that I see in my imagination. I begin to sketch it—for me, the wire is the same as lead pencil to the draughtsman.

"At first, I draw the contours. By this, the size and dimensions are indicated.

As with drawing, so also in my work, the contour is the basis for execution. When it is correctly made, I proceed to form exactly its breadth. The whole thing is done first in the rough, then the muscles, joints and other details are put in. When all this is done, I pass on to underlining still more thoroughly the movement of my figures. What I mean by movement is, that a horse must be rearing with fright, or the dragon wounded to death. It is not sufficient that my swordsman be correct in proportions; he must lunge forward. I am not content when Death rides on his horse—he must mow with his scythe as he rides.

"My joy in the creation of wire sculpture is still undiminished, and my technique is always developing. In my later works I have used more than one kind of wire, so that the onlooker may find variety even in the coloring. And the work constantly suggests new materials, such as the corals of a dancer, the veined marble pedestal for a bird. Thus, I proceed to ever new and more complicated tasks with continued diligence and delight."

* * *

Many an artist works for years before his creations are understood and appreciated by the public, and this blind artist, endeavoring to convey emotions and ideas in a new medium, and emotions and ideas which he himself could not perceive in his bizarre little figures, except by sense of touch, might well have waited long for a public.

LITTLE EDEN

By Helen May Martin

(Blind and Deaf)

Some day I will come back to you,
When the skies are soft and blue,
And sun shafts flash golden light,
And the wind whispers, "All is bright."

High in the tree tops birds are singing,
And echoes from the distance are ringing.
My kittens play about, all snowy fur,
Lovingly they look at us and purr.
While I long for my Kansas home,
That to me is a Little Eden all my own,
Where Love reigns, and dreams come true,
But some day I'll come back to you.

"What Great Big Eyes You Have!"

Some of Lillian Hamilton's Customers Say It,
Never Suspecting that She's Nearly Blind

By CHARLINE BELL



Be it ever so humble, a business of her own was Lillian Hamilton's ideal.

—Braille Institute photos.

SAID Little Red Riding Hood, "Oh-h, Grandmother, what great, big eyes you have!" And sometimes Lillian Hamilton's customers will remark to her, "My, what strong glasses you wear—are you near-sighted?"

However, such is this busy world, and its preoccupation with its own affairs, a lot of customers never notice, and few of those who do say anything, ever suspect that they are being served by a courageous handicapped girl, practically blind, and also partially deaf. Her customers go to her for beauty treatments, and are guided by the quality of the work she does for them, and that is all there is to it, really.

That is all, except that Lillian Hamilton has made a plucky fight against physical handicap, and it now appears to be a winning fight. With a little more time to establish herself in business, and a little respite from Old Man Depression,

she feels that she can succeed not only against her handicap, but against the difficulties that beset anybody who started out in black old 1932.

* * *

Lillian Hamilton is still just a girl. She was born in Wisconsin, but has lived eleven years in Glendale, California, about half her life. From birth, she has had hardly forty percent unassisted vision in one of her eyes, while the other has always been totally blind. Nor has she ever known normal hearing.

After going to school in Glendale, she was sent to the California School for the Blind, at Berkeley, a State institution, and when her course was finished there, entered for special training at a Los Angeles "beauty college," under the auspices of the California State Rehabilitation Department.

"I felt that my best chance for earning a living was in learning something that I could do with my hands," she says. And then adds, wistfully, "There has never been anything the matter with my hands!"

Oh! that word "beauty," as they use it in connection with "beauty shop," and "beauty treatment," and "beauty college." Why can't they find a better word for the kind of work this girl does? For it is really hair-dressing, and personal hygiene, rather than "dolling up," and in California you must pass a State examination before the public is permitted to place itself in your expert hands. Miss Hamilton passed this examination without difficulty. But knowing your trade—a very necessary trade it is—and making your living at it, are two different things altogether.

When she finished her course of training, Lillian demonstrated her fitness by securing a job at a beauty shop, where she made good as an employee. Followed several other jobs, to secure different kinds of experience in meeting people. But soon she decided that she would be happiest working for herself, in a business of her own, be it ever so humble for a start.

And so, a little more than a year ago, when the business world seemed to be tumbling about our ears, this handicapped girl borrowed a little money to equip a small establishment at 127½ South Orange street, in Glendale, her old home town. There she does all branches of beauty work, hair-dressing, waving, facials and so forth.

While getting started has been hard, and at times discouraging, she has made decided headway, kept up the payments on her loan and equipment, and feels that with better times coming to the country, there will be a share of prosperity for her.

* * *

Besides her skill at hair-dressing and facial treatments, Miss Hamilton has the ability to "sell" herself.

At one establishment where she worked before going into business for herself, they made a "special" of permanent waving. This drew many customers, and she was assigned to the waving department, where she often took care of a half-dozen customers in a day. Learning the drawing power of a "special," she looked around for one herself, and found that a combination of a shampoo and finger wave, for fifty cents, was a comparative novelty in Glendale.

So that became her "special," and to add to its attractions, as well as spread out the work over the week, she made the stipulation that work could be had any time, on any day, but that the payment must be made Monday. This was an advantage in a shop where the proprietor himself had to do all the work, and it was just as attractive to the customers.

Competition in this business is very keen, even in a residential section like Glendale, and besides the regular beauty shops, there are beauty colleges and schools that do work for little or nothing, as a means of securing clients for students to practice on.

On the other hand, beauty work is a field in which you stand or fall by the quality of your service. It is a very personal matter, and a skillful operator has plenty of opportunities to establish herself in the liking and confidence of her clients, and make them steady customers, as well as aids in getting further business.

For a handicapped girl, too, beauty work provides that constant association with everyday people which is needed, and if customers come and go without ever

discovering that the operator is handicapped, so much the more satisfactory.

It is a fact that very few of Lillian Hamilton's patrons ever remark, "Grandmother, what great big eyes you have."

"My Sister"

By John Harse Rhoades

The mere little touch of a finger,
And the book spells words divine,
The mere little touch of a finger,
As it moves along a line.

Gay with her love to finger
She feels each little mark
And lo! with a touch of a finger
She reads and smiles in the dark.

Where Justice Is Really Blind

Blind men have made a name for themselves as justices of the peace in Butte, Montana, for three of the city's five justices are blind, and a blind justice was recently elected to fill the post of a fourth blind man who died. Also, the City Police Judge of Butte for ten years was a blind man. The four justices are J. J. McNamara, blind 42 years; J. J. Corbitt, blind 25 years; Lewis A. Buckley, blind 27 years, and Dave Lewis, long without sight, while John Skea, the police judge from 1921 to 1931, had been blind 33 years. Ability enabled these men to secure their places, not public sympathy.



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Our Two Braille Magazines

How They Are Edited and Made, and
Our Special Offer to Blind Readers

By J. ROBERT ATKINSON

A BRAILLE magazine twice a month, for three months, for one dollar! This is our special offer to help the blind through a critical time, and if it increases circulation enough to bring down printing costs on "The Braille Mirror" and "March of Events," we will further lower the price to three dollars a year for both magazines, or three months for seventy-five cents. This is in accord with our Five-Year One Million Dollar Endowment and Expansion Program, which will lower the cost of reading for the blind. The present offer is good until December 28th.

The Braille Mirror

Seven years ago, there was only one secular magazine for the blind published in the United States. The eagerness of Braille readers for periodicals containing current news topics, such as their friends with sight enjoy, gave rise in 1926 to the launching of a Braille monthly called "The Braille Mirror." To test the appropriateness of the name selected, Webster's definition, "Literature should be a mirror of life," dissipated all doubt. The blind everywhere received the name with enthusiasm. One blind reader said: "For years I have been searching for a looking-glass in which I might see myself. 'The Braille Mirror' makes it possible for me to see the world reflected, and it is all the looking-glass I need."

Among its outstanding features are the Open Forum page and the advertising section. It is the first magazine for the blind printed in the United States whose postal entry permits the printing of advertisements, which have proved very helpful to the blind in many walks of life.

"Voices from Braille-land" is the Open Forum section. For the first time in the history of blindness, the blind are given a chance in this section to voice their convictions. If you think the blind have no convictions of their own; if you think they are not actively interested in national and international affairs, social, civic, religious and political, which stir the

emotions of every alert citizen; if you think they do not know how to express their convictions logically and cogently, you should review this section of "The Braille Mirror."

The "Braille-land Business News Reel" section, edited by James H. Collins, is also something novel in journalism for the blind, giving them helpful facts and suggestions for success in the trades and professions, and reflecting the views of prominent social, economic and industrial leaders.

"Braille Book List and Review" gives information not obtainable elsewhere. Literature reviewed by critics on the radio, and in the best dailies and weeklies, is summarized, guiding the blind in their selection of reading matter printed in Braille.

"Wit and Humor" reflects the sunnier side of life, and is popular with readers, who appreciate comedy and enjoy a good joke.



Mailing the Christmas number of a Braille magazine.
-- Braille Institute photos.

The editorial section reflects, for the most part, the views of eminent writers, reprinted from the best dailies and periodicals, sometimes condensed to fit the space available. Occasionally, this department presents editorials especially written bearing upon the destiny of the blind, and the things vital to their welfare and success. But this is the exception rather than the rule, for blind readers are not so much interested in reading their own problems, usually all too familiar to them, as they are in keeping abreast of the times.

Politically, "The Braille Mirror" is non-partisan. Its watchword "Handicaps Overcome" explains its object, "To make Braille literature a mirror of life; to keep this mirror clean that it may reflect the beautiful, the good and the true in social, civic, political and economic reforms," so that its readers, the majority of whom have lost their sight in middle life, may keep well informed on world affairs, acquire a renewed interest in life and become happy, resourceful citizens of the world.

The miscellaneous section, comprising the greater part of each number, deals with the very latest findings and discoveries in science, travel, exploration and invention.

An occasional short story breaks the solidity, although the majority of its readers, hungry for the news on national and international affairs, favor the space being thus used, instead of for stories.

Its "News Notes and Rambling Talk" section contains flashes of world-wide news, edited from the front pages of prominent dailies just before the magazine goes to press, thus giving readers the very latest dispatches on national and international affairs.

March of Events

In December, 1930, the Braille Institute of America, Inc., acceding to requests from many blind readers for more current periodical matter than was possible to furnish in "The Braille Mirror," inaugurated another forward and revolutionary step in Braille journalism, by launching another monthly periodical called "March of Events," made up entirely from editorials and leading articles reprinted from the "World's Work." Through the courtesy of Doubleday Doran & Company, the publishers, arrangements were made for copy in advance so that the Braille issue might be placed in the hands of the blind

at the same time each month that "World's Work" was released, thus giving to them for the first time current periodical reading matter hot off the griddle.

When, in July, 1932, "World's Work" suspended publication, pending a merger with the "Review of Reviews," the August number of "March of Events" came out on time, edited by the staff of the Braille Institute of America. That issue was so popular with readers that it was decided to continue its publication under the editorial supervision of the Braille Institute.

"March of Events" presents a digest of world news, and by staggering its publication date with that of "The Braille Mirror," a fifteen-day news service is made available to the blind, another forward step in Braille journalism.

National events are the tracks on the road to the future. By them, may be computed the speed and direction of the march. So, the first section of "March of Events" deals with international news in brief, "Footsteps in the March." Here are reviewed the highlights of the world's happenings, political and economic, each nation receiving its equal dues.

Next comes the editorial section, "March of Events." Some of its editorials are reprinted in full from prominent dailies, others must be condensed to fit the space. Usually seven or eight subjects are handled in this department.

The body proper is made up largely of articles appearing in current numbers of leading magazines covering the world's development in the field of science, invention and exploration. These articles are sometimes reprinted in full, but frequently they must be condensed, and occasionally rewritten, to conform to space requirements.

Following the editorial section, is "Personalities," wherein biographical sketches of at least two prominent characters in the world of science, politics, economics or literature are presented.

Wit and Humor comes in for its share of space in "March of Events," offering a good prelude to "News Briefs and Comments," which fill at least ten pages of the magazine. Like "News Notes and Rambling Talk" in "The Braille Mirror," this section presents in brief the latest important news dispatches released just before publication date. Probably because of this it is the most interesting feature of the magazine.

For Christmas Give a Book of The Bible

The Blind Love the World's Greatest
Book. Printed in Separate Braille Volumes

THE Greatest English Classic" is the place given to the King James Version of the Bible by Cleland Boyd McAfee, and that is the name chosen for his book, published by Harper and Brothers, New York. The work presents a comprehensive study of the King James Version, and its influence on life and literature, in five lectures prepared at the request of the Brooklyn Institute of Art and Science."

Declaring that the King James Version is "literature that provokes literature," McAfee, in his fourth lecture, speaks of the Bible as being "a book-making book." To this it might be added that the Book of all Books is a book of many books.

Indeed, with thirty-nine books in the Old Testament, and twenty-seven in the New, the work of many authors, spread over a period of fifteen hundred years, the Bible may rightly be regarded as a library within itself. Perhaps no volume ever published contains a wider variety of reading matter. Though significantly a religious work, tragedy, adventure, romance, conquest, deprivation, pervades its pages, not to mention that it is the best work on ethics, morals and law ever produced.

No other book ever written has been quoted and misquoted oftener, and no other book has had more to do in shaping the destinies of men and nations. So completely has the Bible influenced and permeated literature that it is claimed that, were the Bible utterly destroyed, it could be restored in all its essential parts from the quotations on the shelves of our public libraries.

It takes all sorts of people to make a world, and all sorts of books to make a library. The literary tastes of individuals are about as many as the stars in the heavens. History, biography, fiction, science, philosophy and religion all have their devotees. And, thus it is that the Bible, the Book of many books, draws a large clientele of readers.

Any portion of the Scriptures in Braille is an excellent Christmas present. Of the Old Testament books perhaps Isaiah, because it is considered by many as pro-

phetic of this present age, and owing to its many prophecies of the Messiah's coming, is very appropriate for the season. And, of the New Testament, the Gospel of St. Luke, which contains a fuller account of



Packing one Braille Bible for shipment.

the birth and boyhood of Jesus than any of the other Gospels, is a very timely gift for the Yuletide, bringing as it does "good tidings of great joy," announced to the shepherds of old.

The book of Isaiah binds separately in one Braille volume, but the Gospels of St. Luke and St. John are bound together. Either of these volumes is offered at the special price of \$1, and for only \$5 the complete New Testament in five volumes can be supplied.

The Braille Bible Society, 739 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California, a non-profit, non-sectarian agency, organized exclusively for the purpose of supplying the Scriptures to the blind free or at prices they are able to pay, has a long waiting list of blind readers, who being unable to pay even the special price of \$1 a volume have asked for the whole Bible or portions thereof free. The Society invites all to assist them in this worthy work and contributions alike both by the blind and the society. A Christmas gift of a Braille Bible to a blind reader desiring it, means a useful as well as comforting gift and one that is serviceable for many years.

Athletic Club for Blind People

Sightless Men and Women Join Germany's
Sports Movement with Own Competition

AMONG other things, Germany claims the world's largest library for the blind, and many advanced methods of caring for sightless men and women, as well as new ideas in their training, and participation in the everyday affairs of everyday people.

All this the result of the war, which left thousands of blinded soldiers, who were determined to again become independent.

But the high light was seen recently, says the New York Times, when the new Berlin Athletic Club for the Blind held its first public contests, and a large crowd of curious spectators attracted by the event was surprised not only to see blind men and women sprinting, putting the shot, jumping and doing hand-springs, but to see them do all this a great deal better than the majority of the spectators themselves could have done it.

The idea of training the blind physically through athletics is the latest development. Paul Rosenbaum, a quiet and benevolent blind brush maker in the Municipal Institute for the Blind, conceived the idea that all the sightless folk lacked was physical training. Aside from the fact that blind persons have little opportunity for walks and physical exercise, he felt that athletic training would teach them better than anything else to control their bodies, despite the lack of sight.

With several blind friends he founded the Athletic Club for the Blind. Thirty men and thirty women are members and they meet twice a week, at night, after their day's work, in a large hall in the northern part of Berlin. They have a trainer, who is the only person among them who can see.

The public contests were a great day for these blind athletes, and they had looked forward to it not without some fear lest they might fail to impress the spectators, or possibly be ridiculed.

But the onlookers did not laugh. The trainer, George Bretkopf, who explained that a 100-meter dash required infinite courage and concentration on the part of

a blind person, was himself surprised at the performance of his pupils.

They sprinted two and two with nothing to guide them except the yells and cheers of friends and the trainer, who indicated the direction to them before starting. Two young men tied for the 100-meter world championship for the blind, in slightly more than 13 seconds.

The best shot-put was 35 feet; the best high jump was 5 feet. The champion in the wide-jump contest went over 16 feet. For the wide jump the contestants were permitted to jump off where they liked and the spot was marked in order to measure the distance.

After this initial success, the trainer plans to take his pupils over long distances of 1,500 and 3,000 meters. He will then train them for cross-country runs. The women will be taught folk dances, which Herr Bretkopf hopes to show when they have their next public meet.

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The Story of the Braille Institute

IN 1912, a Montana cowboy lost his sight by accident, almost instantly. Always a reader, he mastered Braille, and then looked around for books that would help him to a business education. Such books were rare; and the blind had only one magazine to keep them posted on the world's affairs.

Starting in a garage back of his Los Angeles home, in 1920, J. Robert Atkinson made a beginning with the Universal Braille Press, printing books on machinery partly of his own invention. Mr. and Mrs. John M. Longyear, philanthropists aided him financially.

In 1926 he launched a monthly magazine called "The Braille Mirror," dealing with current affairs; and in 1930, its companion called "March of Events" which contains a digest of world news. Through staggering the publication dates of these two magazines, the blind now have a semi-monthly news service.

The Braille Institute of America was incorporated under the laws of California, to finance reading matter for the blind, through an endowment fund, deposited under a trust, with a strong financial institution. Founded primarily to extend the activities of the Universal Braille Press, this name will be perpetuated as the trade name of the Institute's printing department, both being operated on a non-profit basis.

The magazines published by the Braille Institute are read by blind subscribers all over the United States, and by many blind readers in foreign countries as well. The Braille books published by this institution are deposited in libraries over the whole country, and also other lands.

So the work of the Braille Institute of America is broadly national, and international, in the interests of blind persons everywhere, and is non-sectarian, and truly humanitarian.

Visitors are always welcome at the Braille Institute, and its printing plant, 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles—telephone OLympia 1121. The story of this institution, told more fully, will be mailed to any reader who asks for it.

"Be sure it's the Braille Institute"

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Lions Clubs Subscribe for "Light"

To date, the following Lions Clubs have sent in their subscriptions for "Light," which have sent on their way free subscriptions for the "Braille Mirror" to needy blind:

Plainfield Lions Club, Plainfield, Ind.
Westbrook Lions Club, Westbrook, Maine.
Mott Lions Club, Mott, North Dakota.
Maplewood Lions Club, Maplewood, N. J.
Lakota Lions Club, Lakota, North Dakota.
Butler Lions Club, Butler, Pa.
Uptown Chicago Lions Club, Uptown Chicago, Ill.
Lions Club of Villa Park, Villa Park, Ill.
Lions Club of Santa Monica, Santa Monica, Calif.
West Chicago Lions Club, West Chicago, Ill.
Birmingham Lions Club, Birmingham, Ala.
San Jose Lions Club, San Jose, Calif.
Paradise Lions Club, Paradise, Pa.
Ridgewood Lions Club, Ridgewood, N. Y.
Lions Club of Tacony, Philadelphia, Pa.
Ste. Genevieve Lions Club, Ste. Genevieve, Mo.
Lions Club of Oakes, Oakes, No. Dakota.
Toledo Lions Club, Toledo, Ohio.
Thorp Lions Club, Thorp, Wisconsin.
Lions Club of Atwater Park, Los Angeles, Calif.
Lions Club of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, Calif.

We are all of us a little blind to something, and it ill becomes us to condemn our brothers who are blind to something else.—Bolton Hall.

New Books for the Blind

(Printed on the presses of the Braille Institute of America, Inc.)

I for One, by John B. Priestley, 2 vols., cost \$8.65, selling price \$3.70.

10,000 Leagues Over the Sea, by Wm. A. Robinson, 3 vols., cost \$13.75, selling price \$6.50.

Sons, by Pearl Buck, 4 vols., cost \$14.65, selling price \$9.20.

Peking Picnic, by Ann Bridge, 3 vols., cost \$11.85, selling price \$7.75.

An Opportunity to Buy a Practical Christmas Gift for the Blind

Now is the time to buy a blind friend a Braille book at greatly reduced prices. We have many interesting titles of fiction and biography on hand to choose from. Stop in early and look over the list at the Braille Institute of America, 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles—or telephone OLympia 1121, or write for a list and practical suggestions.

What to Do for "Near-Sightedness"

A Handicap of One Person in Twenty,
Now Controlled by Special Types of Lens

By HERBERT S. MARSHUTZ, A. B., O. D.

ONLY one person in approximately twenty is truly "near-sighted," but that one individual can cause the eyesight profession more concern than the other nineteen in that particular group. The reason for this professional apprehension is the fact that myopia (as the nearsighted optical defect is known) tends to increase in fully 50 percent of the recorded cases.

While "far-sightedness," the most common weakness of the human eye, may also increase, here the change is merely a larger proportion of a total or hidden defect becoming manifest, and measurable. As myopia increases, the variations in focus may be either functional or structural—due in both types (it is generally conceded) to the stresses of close-range occupations involving excessive convergence and accommodation of the eyes.

The structural errors are often progressive, sometimes malignant,—in extreme cases resulting in partial or total blindness in the affected eye. Fortunately, among people who live properly, enjoying normal nourishment, fresh air and recreation, dangerous types of myopia are rare. More common is the functional nearsighted case, where the eye-focussing habits become "cramped" or fixed in contrast to the true structural ailment where the eyeball stretches longitudinally.

Before the optometric studies of the past ten years, myopia was usually accorded one treatment—lenses to bring normally keen sight at a distance. Today, however, fair success has been obtained at controlling the action of myopic eyes in their close-range duties. Lenses that not only bring clear vision, but at the same time relieve the eyes of a portion of their close burden, either focusing, convergence or both, have been successfully employed to put the brakes on the "vicious circle" of a progressing functional myopia.

In some instances, muscular "exercises," usually designed to relieve tension in the eye habits, have been employed to break down the myopic tendency. Best

results have been obtained before or during the adolescent age. It is possible that with today's increased knowledge of myopia and another decade of effort, a fair control of this unwelcome ocular defect may be definitely established. Near-sightedness, however, is still one of the mysteries of human eyes. Our American public has become eye conscious during recent years, and those who require optometric aid are more willing to adopt every possible remedial agent for betterment. Stubborn individuals who will not put on glasses, no matter how handicapped, are becoming more rare every day.

The eyes of America are better cared for than those of any other country. This country holds the record for the number of pairs of glasses sold per capita; and the eyes of the next generations will be the stronger for it, particularly that small minority destined to the victims of myopia.

An Example of Courage

"A good example of the kind of courage we need nowadays," says Paul Mallon, syndicate writer, "is the old-time Washington newspaper correspondent who went blind about two years ago. Warning was given him that he was losing his sight. He discarded his pencil and notebook—the essentials of journalism—and prepared to fight his fate. By careful training he did the impossible. He mastered the technique of taking mental notes and cataloguing the voices of public men.

"Now he listens to Congressional debates and statements from officials and dictates long stories with actual quotations. His dispatches are far more accurate than those by some reporters who see."

To Read Braille Helps Success

The fact that everyone of the forty-four blind employees of the Crocker-Wheeler Electric Company, Ampere, New Jersey, are active Braille readers sustains our contention that the blind who master Braille manifest and maintain a higher degree of resourcefulness, initiative and naturally do better in every walk of life, than do the blind who depend upon others to read to them.

The Blind Believe in Santa Claus

And This Year He's Back Again With
Sleighbells and Whiskers and Everything



FIGURE that this Good Old U. S. A. of ours must be still a pretty young country. And I'll tell you how I figured:

In the life of every young feller there is sure to be a time when he don't believe in nothing. He don't believe in fairies any more, or Santa Claus, and he don't believe in his fellow man, or in God.

For the past three Christmas seasons, the U. S. A. has refused to believe in Santa Claus. The kind old saint with the whiskers and sleighbells has been considered dead. The young U. S. A. had discovered that Santa Claus wasn't anybody but your Old Man.

Now, a jolly good thing about our blind people is, that they go right on believing, be the times good or otherwise. Did you

ever hear of a blind radical or cynic? You never did, and you never will. Blind folks have real troubles. Pessimists and cynics have only imaginary troubles.

Don't let anybody convince you that Santa Claus has gone into bankruptcy. Maybe his business has been a little down, but I want to assure you he got a loan from the "Redestruction Finance Corporation."

Hang up your stocking. Have faith in your kind and your country. While you are putting on the sleighbells and false whiskers yourself, spare a three-dollar bill for a subscription to "Light," and I'll see that one of our Braille magazines goes, in your name, to one of our blind people who will sure appreciate it.

This is a 100 per cent self-liquidating loan, backed by your faith in your country and your kind.

The Subscription Man

Two Magazines for the Price of One... LIGHT for You... and a Braille Magazine to a Blind Reader

LIGHT is a magazine you will want to read regularly. Because, it brings you face to face with ambitious blind people, and gives you some of their courage and cheerfulness.

We have an attractive subscription offer.

Send us **THREE DOLLARS** for one year for **LIGHT**, for yourself—eight issues. We will then back up your subscription with a free subscription for a Braille magazine for some blind reader who wants it, but is unable to pay.

If you wish to name the blind reader to receive the Braille magazine, we will send it to the person you designate.

Two good magazines for the price of one, and two readers made happy.

DO IT TODAY!

Seen With Half an Eye

Here's to the girls, the young ones;

Not too young,

For the good die young,

And nobody wants a dead one.

Here's to the girls, the old ones;

Not too old,

For the old dye too,

And nobody wants a dyed one.

—Bank Notes.

Sam was a blind boy, and thought to be not very bright.

People had fun with him, putting a dime and a nickel in his hand, and asking him to pick one coin. Sam always picked the nickel, and that gave the town many a laugh.

"Don't you know the difference?" asked a kind-hearted woman.

"Sure!" said Sam. "But if I ever took the dime they wouldn't try me out any more."

—Clipped.

"How long have you been here?" asked the new bank president.

"Forty years—and in all that time I have made only one slight mistake," replied the clerk.

"Good! Let me congratulate you—but hereafter be more careful."—Boston Transcript.

An Englishman, according to popular legend, gets three laughs from a joke—first, when the joke is told; second, when it is explained to him, and third, when he understands it. The Frenchman gets only the first two—he never sees the point. The German gets one—he won't wait for an explanation. And the American gets none at all, because he's heard the joke before.

"Why don't you work? Hard work never killed anybody."

"You're wrong, lady—I lost both my wives that way."

"I'd gie a thousand pounds," declared the Scotchman, "and gold pounds, too, none of your depreciated paper—yes, I'd gie a thousand pounds to be a millionaire!"

Definition—A limousine is a sedan with a glass partition to protect the driver from silly conversation.

"Let me know as soon as you arrive."

"I will write."

"And if you have forgotten anything?"

"I will wire."

"If you want money?"

"I will telephone."

"We really should get a new car this year."

"What, when I'm still paying instalments on the car I exchanged for the ear I sold in part payment of the ear I've got now?"

A flea and an elephant walked side by side over a little bridge. Said the flea to the elephant, after they had crossed it: "Boy, we sure did shake that thing!"

Patient (nervously): "And will the operation be dangerous, doctor?"

Doctor: "Nonsense! You can't buy a dangerous operation for fifty dollars."

"Thinking of me, dearest?"

"Was I laughing? I'm so sorry."

A wealthy American, shooting on the Scotch moors, got lost in a heavy mist, and after several hours wandering, finally found a Scot.

"I'm lost," he confessed.

"Mon, I ken ye are," answered the Scot. "But is there any reward offered for findin' ye?"

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Dickens Wrote Her Story

Born 100 Years Ago, Laura Bridgman, Without Sight or Hearing, Was a Great Teacher

A FAIR young creature, with every human faculty, and hope, and power of goodness and affection, and but one outward sense—the sense of touch.”

So did Charles Dickens describe the famous Laura Bridgman, born more than a century ago, who was blind, deaf and dumb from early childhood, without sense of smell, and almost devoid of taste. Yet she became as adept and famous in her day as Helen Keller in our own, for she mastered algebra, history, geography and needlework, and later took her place as a teacher of the blind and deaf. And she had the good fortune to interest Charles Dickens, who, in his “American Notes,” has left a full account of her early years.

Born at Hanover, New Hampshire, in 1829, Laura Bridgman lost her sight and hearing at the age of two, through fever. Cut off from the world, and a sickly child until four years old, she began to explore things around her, learning the shape, weight and temperature of every object contacted. By feeling of her mother's fingers, she even learned to sew and knit a little.

When eight years old she was taken to the Perkins Institution, in Massachusetts, for training, and after a few weeks of adjustment, began learning to read, write and think in our common language, instead of the arbitrary language she had created for herself. Charles Dickens related at length how she was taught to correctly name spoons, knives and the like, and from that to learn the letters and words connected with them. She was taught the deaf-and-dumb finger alphabet as a means of talking to others, and when left alone would talk to herself, happily, where before she had worked at sewing or knitting to pass her hours.

As she developed, Laura became decidedly “choosy” in selecting her friends. She quickly learned to recognize individuals by touch, and soon developed her own tests of people, whom she judged by their mental ability. Perhaps because bright people were of most aid to her, and most satisfactory to talk with, she became

almost contemptuous of any new person discovered to be slow-witted. She liked to have her bright child friends noticed by the teachers. But she was also jealous if the praise went too far.

Laura was fourteen when Dickens saw her, in 1843, and he paid tribute to her teacher, Dr. Samuel G. Howe, a young



Boston physician, born in 1801, who was chosen to make investigations in Europe, gathering information about the care and education of the blind, so that an institution could be started in New England. This was the Perkins Institution, founded 1832, one of the first in the United States, and Dr. Howe went out into the streets to find his first blind pupils, and the early history of institutions for the blind in this country is closely linked with his life and work.

Laura Bridgman could never hear a voice, speak to a pupil, see a map, or study a sketch on a blackboard. Yet when she grew to womanhood, she became a very capable teacher of blind and deaf children, in Boston, and there she lived, as a teacher and a famous person, until her death in 1889, nearly sixty years old.

The great English novelist pays his tribute to Dr. Howe, who interested him in that work, and in Laura Bridgman.



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LIGHT



Your message will be faithfully handled by this blind telephone operator, with her Braille slate, typewriter and dictaphone (See Page 8).

—Photo courtesy California Industrial Home
for the Adult Blind

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1933



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Blind Anna Dixon gathering pages of the January "Braille Mirror" magazine for sightless readers.
—Braille Institute photo

Contents for January-February, 1933

Even as You and I—Editorial	3
It Takes the Fighting Heart! by Charles H. Snow	4
Dr. Moon's Invention Americanized, by J. Robert Atkinson	6
Hunting a Needle in a Haystack	7
The Blind as Telephone Operators, by Mary Carroll	8
A Soldier Leads New Zealand's Blind, by Agnes Hume Macdonald	10
Bibles for the Blind	12
Urgent Need for a Braille Dictionary	14
Seen With Half an Eye	15
"Can You Find Us 25 Blind Soldiers?"	16

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Activities of the Braille Institute of America

Sponsorship of BOOKS and MAGAZINES, published in Braille, for the use of the blind, on a non-profit basis and free to the blind unable to pay.

Free HOME TEACHING of the blind in the mastery of the Braille system.

Maintenance of a FREE LENDING REFERENCE LIBRARY, being stocked with business journals, guides and numerous books on all vocations, trades and professions, followed by the blind, including works on the principles of insurance, commercial law, real estate, business ethics, social and political economy, salesmanship, journalism, and many other subjects.

BUREAU of BETTER BUSINESS for the BLIND to assist blind adults in choosing a trade, profession or business suitable to their talents.

SCHOLARSHIPS for vocational and higher education in branches of the trades and professions found practical for the blind, such scholarship to provide readers also when necessary.

BUSINESS FINANCE to finance the blind business men and women by way of loans under supervision of the Braille Institute Trustees, until they are permanently and successfully established.

To engage in all other HUMANITARIAN efforts incidental to the social, industrial, professional and literary welfare of the blind not being covered by other agencies, public or private.

Our Magazines: "LIGHT"—a success magazine of the blind; the "BRAILLE MIRROR" and "MARCH OF EVENTS", Braille monthlies for the blind, with semi-monthly news service.

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LIGHT

To further acquaint people with the ambitions and success of the blind, and enlist aid in meeting their problem of securing good reading matter.

Published bi-monthly by Braille Institute of America, Inc.
741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California

\$3 a year—every subscription turned into a free subscription for a Braille magazine to a needy blind reader

James H. Collins, Editor

J. Robert Atkinson, Associate Editor

Jerry M. Nesbitt, Business Manager

VOL. 5

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1933

NO. 1

Even As You and I

By JAMES H. COLLINS

A BLIND man, sitting in the dark, with sensitive fingers eagerly following the Braille text of—a detective story! Murder mysteries and cowboy thrillers for the blind?

Well, why not? Maybe you have never thought of the blind except as diligent readers of "improving" books—the kind you and I do not want to read ourselves.

* * *

The blind are not like that. They are like you and me. A few sightless persons have a real relish for high-brow reading, and the rest, when the day's struggle is over, want reading that takes them out of themselves. The blind get plenty of hard facts bucking the world for a living—even as you and I.

For a good many centuries, the blind were left to their own resources, and developed their own profession, and followed it with more or less success. That profession was mendicancy, with accessories of entertainment and soothsaying.

When sympathetic people began educating the blind, they took things very seriously, and taught heavy stuff. Year by year, education for the blind has been coming closer to

their real needs. But the old idea dies hard—that when a human being loses the precious gift of sight, and is more or less at the mercy of others, there is a dandy chance to "improve" him.

* * *

What the blind think about their own reading needs is clearly shown in the demand for our Braille Institute publications. In the course of a year, we make a good many books, high-brow and low-brow, and they have an enormous circulation through the libraries of the country.

But more and more, every year, the demand grows for Braille magazines. The blind are just like sighted people. They want to keep up with the world, and be entertained by their reading. The magazine fits their needs, just as it does with ourselves.

That is why our two Braille magazines have been "staggered," to give a semi-monthly service, and why we are starting a new magazine in Moon type for the elderly blind and newly blinded. And that is why, some day, we hope to add a household magazine for blind women, and a straight fiction magazine for the whole blind world, packed full of thrills!

It Takes the Fighting Heart!

I Worked Through Four Years of Rejections
Before Selling My First Short Story

By CHARLES H. SNOW

Blind Western Novelist, Napa, California

SAID my elder brother, "You have always been a pretty good liar. And you have had a lot of experience. Why don't you try writing fiction?"

I do not now know just why, but I grabbed the suggestion, though I had had no experience at stories—had not even thought of attempting to create them.

I found, as I began work, because of a roving spirit, that I did have a bankful of experiences on which to draw, and perhaps a little more than the average imagination. The latter is all essential to the fiction writer.

But I am getting a little ahead of my story.

My sight was lost in September, 1914, when some hot babbitt metal blew out of an engine bearing. For several years, and during surgical operations, there was some hope of regaining sight. It took four years for me to realize that I would never see again, and during that time I tried various things, and worried over occupation.

Meanwhile, my wife was making a living, and educating our daughter as well. All compensation for my injury was denied by the courts because I had been a "transient" laborer, on the job only eleven days. Had I worked fourteen days, no question would have been raised. Fortunately for others, my case was the cause of this unjust law being changed.

Born in California in 1877, of "covered wagon" parents, I gained a little grammar school education. But I was much more interested in a gun or fishing-pole than books. At seventeen, the family moved to the gold mining region of the Sierras. A year later, my elder brother and I went to British Columbia. Three years later



Charles H. Snow

we went to South America, and then I came home, went to the Idaho mining country, and married. After that, three years in the Mohave desert, and trips into Mexico, and construction work after the San Francisco earthquake, and into Nevada—all to do with mining, which was my great love, except an experience operating the first motor stages. Finally I came to Napa, where my parents had moved, and where I now live, and it was here that I lost my sight.

* * *

It took three and a half years of plugging, and great patience by the rest of the family, before I sold a story—a "short" for fifty dollars.

I had to have some other income while I was learning this trade, as Mrs. Snow's health was giving out, so I ran for justice of the peace in Napa, was elected, and served four years, and also became Napa correspondent for the San Francisco Chronicle and Sacramento Bee.

Four years later I was defeated by a few votes, and lost my job as justice—it had paid only a hundred dollars a month, with no clerk hire.

But by that time I had sold several short stories, novelettes and Western novels to pulp-paper magazines, and also sold in Great Britain. After another four years I had made enough progress in fiction to give up newspaper work, which had been valuable training apart from the money it brought.

I write all my stories direct on the typewriter, having each day's work read to me. The first draft is turned over to a secretary for correction of obvious errors, and then read to me for revision of facts, characters, details of plot and so on—one

of the most particular parts of the work.

I have not found dictation satisfactory—it interferes with my line of silent thought. One must live with his characters so that they become real for the time. I do all my work outside, when weather permits, having one improvised desk in the sun, another in the shade.

To anybody thinking of attempting fiction as a means of living, I would say that it is a serious business—not magic by which money can be taken out of a hat. It means trying, constant work and study, and success will not come without many disappointments. Much of my own success is due to my wife and daughter, who aided me during my long apprenticeship.

But with the fighting heart, there is a very good chance of success. The building of a story is a good deal like the building of a house. There must be good material, and then the parts must be carefully put together.

My latest book is a Western juvenile, "Stocky of Lone Tree Ranch," and upon its success the publishers will base publication of another from me. I truly think it is a reasonably good story, and shall be glad of any friends it may make.

* * *

Two novels for grown-ups have proved very popular, "The Sheriff of Chispa Loma" and "Don Jim," tales of the early California gold days. My first American novel was "The Rider of San Felipe," a story of the Southwest.

My Western stories, novelettes and novels have been published in more than a dozen magazines in this country, and in about as many in Great Britain. Nine of my novels have been printed in book form in London, and one has been translated into Polish and Czecho-Slovak. In our own country, for several years past, it has been much harder to get Western novels printed in book form, but I have been lucky enough to have four published.

As I am often asked where and how I get the inspiration for my work, I can only say that there is no such thing, as far as I know. It is determination and perspiration that count most.

I have found fiction remunerative to a certain degree—enough so that we have not had to beg or borrow, and if we have stolen, nobody has caught us at it. We are proud of that.

Not all people can become story writ-

ers, but much of the art, if it is an art, can be cultivated. It takes hard, grinding work, first, last and all the time.

Our Own Who's Who

W. H. Kindig is a native of Indiana where his business experience began with some years in the selling department of an exporting flour mill. This was followed by active newspaper work in Toledo and Fort Wayne.



W. H. Kindig

He came to California in 1903 and engaged in the hotel business successively at Mount Wilson, Pasadena and Sierra Madre. One of his guests at La Casa Grande Hotel in Pasadena, Mr. Joseph R. Loftus, invited Mr. Kindig to join him in a new venture. With his pioneer spirit he quickly accepted, and the result was the introduction of cotton growing in Imperial Valley. Since that time Mr. Kindig has usually been identified with some form of development, the last ten years being spent as one of the leading spirits in the creating of the beautiful Palos Verdes Estates.

He has always been interested in practical philanthropy. Being acquainted with Mr. Atkinson in the early period of his blindness, he was struck by the social and economic benefits of the plans suggested by Mr. Atkinson to make the blind self-supporting and thereby get them above the necessity for charity.

The first step in this program was to be the printing of Braille books and the establishing of a periodical magazine in Braille. Mr. Kindig enthusiastically spent a great deal of time during many months assisting Mr. Atkinson in experimenting with printing presses, paper, methods and details. In fact, he personally ran the press in turning out the first book for the establishment which has now grown into the Braille Institute of America.

The blind have advanced in the world chiefly in two ways—by the ability of a minority of distinguished sightless persons, and through the sympathy accorded the vast majority of the blind.

Dr. Moon's Invention Americanized

His Simplified System Now Adapted in
This Country by the Braille Institute

By J. ROBERT ATKINSON

THAT all of the blind may read through the sense of touch, and that the process may be made simple and practical, is the problem that has challenged the resourcefulness of noble men and women since the 17th century. Undoubtedly, the two outstanding characters in the successful solution of the problem are Louis Braille and Dr. William Moon, both without sight and both products of the same generation. Each of these blind benefactors designed a system of raised printing which is destined to live on through the centuries.

In recent years, Braille's system of raised print has become quite universally known. Not so much is known, however, of Dr. Moon and his system, although it is by no means secondary in importance to the Braille system, or to the literary culture of the blind. This is probably due in part to the fact that books and magazines for the blind, printed in the Moon type, have never been produced in America, although the system is very popular here, and is destined to become more popular, because of its easy mastery by elderly blind persons.

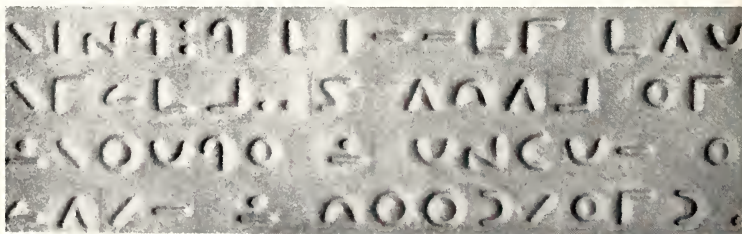
The functional difference between the Moon and Braille systems is clearly explained by Kate M. Foley, California State Home Teacher for the Blind. She explains the Moon type as an "elementary course" for middle-aged persons; the Braille, as a "high school course." Thus

it is that the two systems, though distinctly different typographically, during the present generation at least, are of equal importance.

That is why the Braille Institute of America, Inc., is pioneering in the development of equipment for the publication in America of good books and magazines in the Moon system.

William Moon was born in Brighton, England, in 1817, and in his fourth year lost the sight of one eye through scarlet fever. While a student of twenty-one, the other eye was blinded through overstrain.

"In spite of his blindness," says Richard Slayton French, in "From Homer to Helen Keller," "he continued his studies and attained some reputation as a scholar. About 1840, Moon learned the system of Frere, which was stenographic in character, sharply defined to the touch. With the zeal of a new convert, young Moon spread the gospel to his fellows in affliction. He soon perceived, however, the faults, both of the phonetic system and of the forms of symbols used. By actual experiment he worked out a very 'tangible' modification, using alphabetic signs somewhat resembling the Roman. The symbols were wholly linear, one of their virtues being that they could easily be printed from bits of wire affixed to metal plates. Because of their simplicity and large size, the tangibility of the Moon type, largely angular in form, and rather



TRANSCRIPTION OF MOON PRINT

First line.....	Ringing little lau ***	Third line.....	through the uncut h ***
Second line.....	reply. And away he ***	Fourth line.....	past the woodshed, ***

letters is so great that they can be easily read even by those becoming blind at an advanced age."

Dr. Moon designed the system of printing which now bears his name in 1847, about twenty years after the Braille system was invented.

Learning to read Braille, he had endeavored to teach it to his fellow-blind. He found that those with sensitive fingers learned to read the Braille system readily, but those whose sense of touch was not so acute, or whose hands were calloused by rough work, found it difficult to feel the letters, and therefore few of them learned to read, finding the mastery of Braille slow and tedious.

Thus was Dr. Moon inspired to design his simple letters which would be easy for the aged blind to feel, by taking the Roman letters and altering those which were difficult to detect. That is why the Moon system resembles in many respects the Roman letters, or our A. B. C.'s.

For nearly one hundred years the Moon system has been used by the blind, and all the literature printed in it has been published in England. There is no patent or copyright on the type, but American

agencies have not found it economical to equip for Moon printing, due, in part, to lack of co-operation in the European agency which controls the type.

In England, Moon books are printed from moveable type. The market is solicited in advance before a book is published, and only the number of copies ordered at the time the work goes to press are printed. The type is then distributed and used for other books, and it is costly to secure a second edition.

Ninety thousand volumes of Moon books, all of them printed in England, and most of them by English authors, were circulated from libraries in this country in 1931, to blind readers who might otherwise have been without literary food. Believing that these readers would enjoy a monthly magazine in the Moon type, containing a digest of world news, and possibly a short story, the Braille Institute is making rapid progress in the development of machinery that will revolutionize the present method of producing literature in that type, and is hopeful that it will be possible to launch a magazine in the system before midsummer of the present year.

Hunting a Needle in a Haystack

That's My New Job of Locating Blind People
Who Read the Simplified Moon Type—Help Me!



THE Boss has just handed me a new job that's kinda like looking for the needle in the proverbial haystack. Maybe you can help me out.

You see, last year 90,000 books in Moon type were taken from public libraries by the elderly blind, and newly blinded people, who read this kind of raised printing. Moon type is a simplified form of the regular alphabet. You could read it yourself with a little practice, while it would take you quite some time to learn the dot system of Braille. Moon type readers are a minority among the blind, but they are important, and ought to have good current reading. We are planning a Moon type monthly news

magazine that ought to get started early this year. And I have to find the blind people who read this type. Some job!

Maybe you know an elderly blind person, or one who has lately lost eyesight, and is struggling with his or her readjustment problem. If you will send me his or her name and address, I'll be glad to give notice when the new Moon magazine comes out.

Better yet, you can send me three dollars for a subscription to "Light," and under our subscription plan we will send the Moon magazine to that person, on your behalf, or to some other Moon type reader on our lists of blind people who want to read, but cannot afford to subscribe. I'll say you'd be helpful!

The Subscription Man

The Blind as Telephone Operators

Rose Reilly Demonstrates that this
Work is Well Within Their Ability

By MARY CARROLL

Supervising Field Worker,
California State Industrial Home for the Adult Blind, Oakland, California.

Rose Reilly is the blind telephone girl shown on our cover, and she is also a typist and Dictaphone operator, recording telephone calls in Braille, and writing them on the machine for sighted persons. Here is the story of her training, told by her teacher, and her success raises hopes that private telephone switchboards may be entrusted to more blind operators, because the blind have the memory training, concentration and patience necessary in this work.

YOU can make friends very easily—or lose them—at the telephone switchboard of any business concern. It may be a large corporation, or the office of a professional man, a physician or attorney, or a state institution, like our own. The voice, personality, manners, patience and memory of the operator, woman or man, is a very great asset to the organization—or it isn't! In large business concerns, where employees are carefully selected for each type of work, and trained for efficiency, the telephone operators are sure to be high-grade individuals, and you know this as soon as you contact them by 'phone.

Miss Rose Reilly is the telephone operator here at the California State Industrial Home for the Adult Blind, and she was chosen for training in that position because she has a sweet voice, a pleasing personality, and is always extremely careful about her personal appearance, so that you like her however you may meet her, over the 'phone or at her switchboard.

And this position was, for her, a welcome kind of work, after she had failed to find entire satisfaction in other accepted occupations for the blind. She demonstrates that telephone operating is a profession well within the abilities of some blind persons.

Miss Reilly was born in 1899, at Appleton, Wisconsin, but was brought to California as a child, at the age of six. She has always been blind, losing her sight at birth through ophthalmia neonatorum. Entering the California State School for the Blind at Berkeley when eight years old, she was graduated from that school in 1919. Then, for several years, she stayed

at home with her family, during which time she attended the California State Teachers' College at Chico for one semester.

In 1929, circumstances arose which made it necessary for her to earn her own living, and she had not been trained for any particular occupation. So she entered the California State Industrial Home for the Adult Blind, at Oakland, in June, that year, and did excellent work in the chair caning department. But she felt that she wanted to do something that would be more interesting.

Studying the telephone switchboard used in our offices, and finding that it was the same type used in many small business offices and large apartment houses, I decided that, with very little change, many of our blind girls could be trained to operate such a board.

Permission was given me to train Rose, when the matter had been laid before Mr. J. M. Kelley, Superintendent of the home, and the matter of making adjustments in the switchboard was taken up with the Pacific Telephone Company. I suggested that they remove the plates from in front of the indicators, which mark the lines for a sighted operator, and enable the blind operator to touch them to determine the origin of calls. The telephone company did not accept this suggestion at first, but asked for time to make inquiries in the East, where telephone equipment is manufactured, and standardized for national operation. The company had no record of any blind telephone operator in the state of California.

After waiting three months, my suggestion was finally accepted, and the switchboard modified for a blind operator's use.

Our switchboard consists of five trunk lines, for outside communication, and twelve inside lines, communicating with different departments of the home. After a week of continuous training, Rose was able to operate the board with accuracy and ease.

Calls and orders coming in over the tel-

ephone are taken by her in Braille, and then written on the typewriter and passed along to their respective departments.

After becoming proficient as a telephone operator, Miss Reilly was given training at a business school, through the California State Department of Rehabilitation, and now combines dictaphone operating with her telephone work. Her success leads me to believe that this combined work could be performed by many blind girls throughout the state, and the nation, provided care were taken in choosing apt pupils, and in training them, and making the slight modifications needed in telephone switchboards.

Radio for Sightless Legion

There is an invisible army, a legion, which marches to every sound of radio—the blind. It opens vistas of a world that heretofore did not exist for them, says Doug Douglas, in the Los Angeles **Times**. Being without the ability to see is a tragic thing to contemplate. Fumbling one's way from bed to doorway; from doorstep to street corner! Hearing news

only when an occasional friend would read aloud. Listening to music when some one who had the patience to wind the phonograph or lead the way to church.

With the advent of radio, a smile came to the sightless faces of untold thousands. Here was a gift from the gods—a wealth of everything spread before their dark days. No more sincere group of radio listeners exists than these same folk. Nor does a more competent class of constructive critics of air-givings judge their programs.

The other day a letter came to the desk. We'll quote it "as is:"

"It was my privilege to entertain two blind boys in my home over the week-end and I learned from observation how they 'watched' their Braille watches for the time for the news items to go on the air. They listened so intently to every word. So I say this to you, don't be afraid of giving the news for there are hundreds of blind boys whose only way of learning what is going on on the outside, is the radio. So many of them have no one to read to them and many couldn't even buy a paper."

Two Magazines for the Price of One... LIGHT for You ...and a Braille Magazine to a Blind Reader

LIGHT is a magazine you will want to read regularly. Because, it brings you face to face with ambitious blind people, and gives you some of their courage and cheerfulness.

We have an attractive subscription offer.

Send us **THREE DOLLARS** for one year for **LIGHT**, for yourself—eight issues. We will then back up your subscription with a free subscription for a Braille magazine for some blind reader who wants it, but is unable to pay.

If you wish to name the blind reader to receive the Braille magazine, we will send it to the person you designate.

Two good magazines for the price of one, and two readers made happy.

DO IT TODAY!

A Soldier Leads New Zealand's Blind

Blinded in Battle, Clutha Mackenzie Now
Directs the Jubilee Institute* at Auckland

By AGNES HUME MACDONALD

A YOUNG New Zealander, almost blind, but with a small degree of vision, was being brought to the Jubilee Institute for the Blind, in Auckland—much against his wishes, and in dread.

"Is it dark everywhere?" he asked, fearfully.

"It isn't dark anywhere!" replied the director, and related how he, a blinded soldier, had welcomed the abundant sunlight and electricity in the home of Sir Arthur Pearson, the blind British editor and publisher, when he was first being taught how to live in his new sightless world.

The Jubilee Institute has large, restful rooms, flooded with sunlight, and provided with wicker chairs and roomy reading tables. These rooms lead to sunny verandas, and a large sunshine court.

The director, Clutha N. Mackenzie, is still this side of forty, but has had a remarkable career. Educated in some of the best New Zealand schools, and following agricultural work at the Government experimental farms on North Island, he was among the first to leave as a soldier for the World War, in October, 1914, with the Wellington Mounted Rifles.

Ten months later, at Anzac, on the Gallipoli Peninsula, he was totally blinded by shell explosion.

On arriving in England, he was visited by Sir Arthur Pearson and Lady Pearson. The blind editor had organized St. Dunstan's for the training of the war-blinded. Mr. Mackenzie dismisses his difficult days of readjustment by saying, "There is really very little to tell—I lived for some time with Sir Arthur, with a number of war-blinded officers, as his personal guest; he was magnificent—he showed



Clutha N. Mackenzie

me how to go about things."

Until the end of the war, Mr. Mackenzie continued with the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, editing a soldier journal, and writing a war story, "The Tale of a Trooper." Returning home, he was the guest of the Admiralty on a six months' cruise with Admiral Lord Jellicoe.

His father was an eminent statesman of New Zealand, Member of Parliament, Premier and High Commissioner in England. Probably this led the son to enter politics. He served three years in Parliament, prior to his

appointment as director of the Jubilee Institute, and in the latter post has become the sponsor for a new spirit of relations between the blind of New Zealand and the public.

The Jubilee Institute for the Blind, only institution of its kind in the Dominion, is successfully meeting an urgent need.

It has under its supervision seven hundred and fifty blind people. Thirty children belong to the school; one hundred and five adults live at the Institute, undergoing training or permanently employed in trades; six hundred and twenty others, throughout the Dominion, are in their own homes or engaged in various useful occupations. No age limit for admission is set, a very considerable percentage of those admitted being between the ages of fifty and seventy years. The wisdom of caring for the needs of these adult blind is obvious.

The policy of the Institute is to educate and finance the blind to establish themselves in outside life; to maintain workshops for the employment of those whose mental or physical capacity renders it difficult for them to cope with ordinary com-

*On December 9, 1932, by Parliamentary Act, the name was changed to the New Zealand Institute for the Blind.

petition; and to make grants or loans toward establishing the blind in a chosen trade or profession. These grants and loans vary from £100 to £500.

Last year, at the World Conference for the Blind, held in New York City, Mr. Mackenzie attended as a delegate from New Zealand, and was able to offer some practical suggestions for the improvement of conditions and equipment for the blind.

He is still a young man, tall, of a fine, strong physique, with a mentality and personality to match. As he talks, with a pleasing, clean-cut Scottish accent, his face is alight with kindness and a keen zest for life's behests. With quick, firm step, he goes about his manifold duties, certain of his well-defined plans for each busy day, carrying everywhere with him a spirit of cheerful, confident, competent activity, which is everywhere reflected. One of our Governor-Generals, after paying a visit to the various departments, remarked that in all the Dominion he had found no happier people than those of the Jubilee Institute.

New Zealand may well be grateful to count among her worth while citizens Clutha Mackenzie.

A Cheerful Story of Real Trouble

Stone-blind and completely paralyzed, Dean Van Clute was a charity inmate of Welfare Island, New York City, when the meaning of his painful life experience became clear to him—that his life story should be told to encourage others.

So, in "Pour Wine for Us," a novel in autobiographical form, with "Peter Holland" as hero, he recounts the boyhood and early manhood of a typical "up-state" New York boy, and tells how the pain and helplessness of paralysis, followed by blindness, were met. His first writing success came when he sold articles to the "American Mercury," and in this first book he has had the aid of his brother, Walton Van Clute. As a result of his magazine articles, Mr. Van Clute was aided by a wealthy friend to leave the island and open a book shop in New York.

"Pour Wine for Us" is not a story of hardship and suffering, but of mental and spiritual development. The author's physical misfortunes are sketched only in the final half-dozen chapters, and with cheerfulness and humor.

Pour Wine for Us, a Novel by Dean Van Clute in collaboration with Walter Van Clute—New York, Frederick A. Stokes Company, \$2.

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Bibles for the Blind

Uncle Sam and Santa Claus Were the "Good Fellows" Bringing Scripture at Christmastide

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind***."—Luke 4: 18.

"And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known; I will make darkness light before them ***."—Isa. 42: 16.

THE Yuletide Season in 1932 brightened the homes of many blind readers through the comfort and good cheer brought to them in portions of the Scriptures in Braille, distributed free by the Braille Bible Society, Inc.

"Uncle Sam" played the role of reindeer for Santa Claus by transporting free through the mail hundreds of volumes to blind readers living in all sections of the

trails leading into the rural districts, with a song of love and mirth in his heart.

Under Section 495½ of the Postal Laws and Regulations, Bibles, when given free to the blind, are transported free through the mail, or at the special rate of **one cent** a pound, when sold at cost or less.

Here, Uncle Sam's contribution to the blind is no small item, for if Braille Bibles had to be shipped at the regular parcel post rate, frequently the postage alone on a single Bible, bound in twenty-one volumes, would approximate \$12.

The Braille Bible Society is organized exclusively for the purpose of supplying the Scriptures in Braille, for the use of the blind, free, or at prices the blind are able to pay below the non-profit production cost. Thousands of volumes have been supplied to the blind in this way.

From all parts of the English-reading world the blind are requesting free grants of the Bible in Braille. As the Society has no other resources than the voluntary contributions of the public, it must look to spiritually-minded friends of the blind to help it supply these requests.

The Society offers the Braille Bible, bound in twenty-one volumes, at the special price of \$21 postpaid, and volumes are sold singly at \$1 each. Although this price is very much below the non-profit production cost, it is still beyond the reach of thousands of blind readers, and more volumes are distributed free to the blind than are sold at this special price.

Contributions are needed at this time to meet the unfilled requests from those who are unable to pay anything at all, and any sum contributed will be appreciated by the Braille Bible Society, Inc., whose address is 739 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles.



nation, and to some in foreign lands. His yoke was heavy, but no doubt the burden was light in anticipation of the joy he was bringing to the captives of physical blindness, to whom the Scriptures in Braille mean very much. Realizing the import of his missionary errand, we can easily imagine that he went about his task, sometimes over stony roads and

New Books for the Blind

(Printed on the presses of the Braille Institute of America, Inc.)

Interpretations, 1931-1932, by Walter Lippman, 3 vols., cost \$21, selling price \$8.

The Letters of William James, edited by Henry James, 7 vols., selling price \$19.30.

Afoot in England, by W. H. Hudson, 2 vols., selling price \$6.15.

Greenbanks, by Dorothy Whipple, 3 vols., in press, selling price \$7.50.

Back Yonder, by Wayman Hogue, 2 vols., in press, selling price \$5.

What We Live By, by Ernest Dimnet, 2 vols., in press, selling price \$6.50.

Cruisers of the Air, by C. J. Hylander, 2 vols., selling price \$5.50.

Gallions Reach, by H. M. Tomlinson, 2 vols., in press, selling price \$5.75.

A Daughter of the Middle Border, by Hamlin Garland, 3 vols., in press, selling price \$8.50.

My Story, by Mary Roberts Rinehart, 4 vols., in press, selling price \$9.25.

Beveridge and the Progressive Era, by C. G. Bowers, 8 vols., in press, selling price \$20.

Braille Radio Programs

On the wall of the workroom in the Blindcraft Building, San Francisco, a Braille program of National Broadcasting Company entertainment is regularly posted, enabling the sightless to know what is on the air from this network.

News-Reel Features Printing for the Blind

"How Six Dots Bring Light to the Blind" is the caption of a talking news-reel made in the printing department of the Braille Institute of America, by the Universal News Reel Service, featuring all the operations in producing books and magazines in Braille for the use of the blind.

The news-reel, which is receiving world-wide bookings, is a feature of "Strange as it Seems" series No. 20.

Eye Accidents Cost Fifty Millions

Each year, in American industry, approximately 2,000 workers lose the sight of one or both eyes through accidents, and 300,000 suffer minor eye injuries, reports the National Safety Council. The time lost, with medical bills and compensation, exceeds \$50,000,000 a year. Next to protection for workers, and their own co-operation in the use of safety glasses and other devices, the greatest need is an expansion of industrial medicine nursing and social service. A new journal called "Industrial Medicine" has been launched to bring these needs more closely home to employers.

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Urgent Need for a Braille Dictionary

The Blind Still Await this Cultural Boon
—Plans for Printing and Distribution

IN THIS modern age of education and rehabilitation, can you picture a little world within the boundary of the United States, inhabited by about 120,000 persons, of all ages and in every walk of life, without an adequate dictionary that they can read?

That is exactly the situation the Braille Institute of America discovered only a few years ago. That is the condition it is now determined to correct through its Five Year Plan, which includes, among other things, the raising of one million dollars in behalf of the social, industrial and literary advancement of the blind.

There are upwards of fifty tax-supported schools in the United States devoted to the education of blind children. Each one of these schools should have a few copies of a large abridged dictionary in the Braille print.

After graduation, each blind student needs a dictionary as much, if not more, than the average student with eyesight. In addition, there are thousands of blind men and women in the world who lost their sight after reaching middle life and who, after learning to read Braille, need a dictionary. Many of these, through no fault of their own, were forced in early life to forego the advantages of a rounded-out education. Many of them have, for various reasons, read little in the days when they possessed eyesight, but after losing it, reading became their only source of amusement and advancement, and after learning to read Braille, they feel the need of a simple, self-pronouncing dictionary.

To meet this need the Braille Institute of America has made a provision in its **five year one million dollar endowment and expansion program**. A system of Braille diacritics has been created, and just as soon as funds are forthcoming for the purpose the work will begin.

The first cost, that of producing the stereotype plates, is the greatest cost, entailing several thousand dollars. But as these plates are good for years to come, in the printing of subsequent editions, their cost represents a substantial tangible asset for future generations of the blind.

Funk & Wagnalls Desk Standard Dictionary or Webster's Collegiate, printed in Braille, will form approximately thirty volumes. To distribute an adequate number free to the schools for the blind means several thousand dollars more.

Then, there is the individual adult who must be helped. He should not be required to pay more for his voluminous Braille dictionary than his friend with sight pays for the same work in ordinary print. He should be supplied the dictionary in Braille, bound in twenty-five or thirty volumes, at a price approximating \$5 for the set, or about twenty-five cents a volume. Therefore, a gift of several thousand dollars for this individual service to the blind is necessary, if all who need the dictionary are to enjoy it.

The Braille Institute of America, Inc., is looking to philanthropy to help it meet this great need of supplying the dictionary to the blind. It has the facilities and the staff to tackle this big problem, and if the funds are forthcoming soon the work can be completed this year.

Announcement of the enterprise has been printed in the Braille monthly magazines published by the Braille Institute, and the blind all over the world have responded, urgently requesting that no time be lost in giving them a dictionary in Braille, the lack of which they deplore.

Obviously, to use a Braille dictionary, because of its many volumes, is rather a cumbersome task at the best. Therefore, when searching for the definition of a word the blind reader should not be disappointed too often by failing to find it in his Braille dictionary. For this reason anything but a large abridged edition, such as Funk & Wagnalls Desk Dictionary or Webster's Collegiate, is wholly inadequate and impractical.

The Funk & Wagnalls Company has very generously granted a free permit for the publication of its desk standard dictionary, a contribution to the blind both rare and costly, and one that will ever be appreciated not only by the blind readers themselves, but by the sighted public.

Seen With Half an Eye

I think that I shall never see,
Along the road, an unscrapped tree.

With bark intact, and painted white,
That no car ever hit at night.

For every tree that's near the road
Has caused some auto to be towed.

Sideswiping trees is done a lot
By drivers who are not so hot.

God gave them eyes so they could see,
Yet any fool can hit a tree.—Judge.

* * *

"Who is that man over there snapping his fingers?"

"That's a deaf mute with the hiccoughs."

* * *

Abie says: "Two pints make one cavort."

* * *

"Yes," said the boastful young man, "my family can trace its ancestry back to William the Conqueror."

"I suppose," sneered his friend, "you'll be telling us that your ancestors were in the Ark with Noah?"

"Certainly not," said the boaster. "My people had a boat of their own."

* * *

An Englishman who recently visited Philadelphia observed that our folks seemed to have two ambitions—one, to own a home and the other, to own a car to get away from the home.

* * *

Morons get the most fun out of life. They aren't afraid somebody will think them morons.

In a fashionable restaurant, a new multi-millionaire with no knowledge of French and no desire to expose his ignorance, pointed to a line on the menu and said to the waiter: "I'll have some of that."

"I'm sorry, sir," replied the waiter, "but the band is playing that now."

* * *

A traveling man one night found himself obliged to remain in a small town on account of a washout on the railroad caused by the heavy rain, which was still coming down in torrents. At supper he turned to the waitress with,

"This certainly looks like the flood."

"The what?"

"The flood. You've read about the flood, and the Ark landing on Mount Ararat, surely."

"Gee, mister," she returned, "I ain't seen a paper for three days."

* * *

Boy: "Do you know, Dad, that in some parts of Africa a man doesn't know his wife until he marries her?"

Dad: "Why single out Africa?"

* * *

The quitting whistle had blown when Murphy shouted, "Has any one seen me vest?"

"Sure, Murphy," said Pat, "and ye've got it on!"

"Right and I have," replied Murphy, gazing solemnly at his bosom, "and it's a good thing ye seen it, or I'd have gone home without it."

Remember—our advertisers pay the publishing cost of this magazine. When patronizing them, mention "Light"

Send us \$3 on a year's subscription for "Light," and we will send one of our Braille magazines free for a year to a reader who cannot pay for it, as your gift.

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"Can You Find Us 25 Blind Soldiers?"

On Call, Our Employment Service Recruits
Men for the Hospital Scene in "Cavalcade"



Happy blind soldiers on their way to appear in the picture "Cavalcade."

—Braille Institute photo



right age and appearance.

The studio sent a motorbus from Fox Hills, and the men were picked up at different points and taken to Stage 5. They were admitted to the set, hospitably treated, everything possible being done for their comfort, while Frank Lloyd, who

directed the picture, explained the stage set and the part of the story in which the blind men were to appear. Then the men were garbed in hospital uniforms, and placed in the scene, some

WHEN you see the Fox film "Cavalcade," your personal interest in the picture may be heightened by knowing that the blind soldiers in the hospital scene are all friends of ours, because hurriedly assembled by the Braille Institute Bureau of Better Business for the Blind, some weeks ago, at a call from the studios, while the story was being shot.

"Cavalcade" tells the story of a British family, consisting of man, wife and two children, through the Boer War and World War, and comes down to today. It is from Noel Coward's story, and the scene of the blind soldiers brings home the aftermath of war, and shows its fertility.

The call came to us for twenty-five blind men between the ages of thirty and fifty. This was an opportunity for our Business Bureau to place people on its waiting lists in employment that was exciting as well as profitable. For the men were to receive ten dollars a day—but, unhappily, for only one day.

Some of the men were called from the Industrial Workshop for the Blind, on Pico Boulevard, others came from the Soldiers' Home at Sawtelle, and still others were friends of the Braille Institute, men of the

weaving baskets, others reading in Braille books, and so on, in the hospital classroom where blinded soldiers were being rehabilitated.

Many of these men had earned nothing for months—one of them said that it was the first time he had earned any money in seven years.

A dramatic incident took place when Pat Smith, of the Soldiers' Home, recognized the voice of the director.

"I know that man—take me to him!" he requested.

An attendant led him to Frank Lloyd, and the director recognized Pat Smith as an assistant who had worked with him before being blinded. They had both been employed by Paramount Studios, and Pat Smith had gone to war, and lost his eyesight.

Our Calendar for the Sighted and Sightless

Our calendar is novel—a calendar printed in ordinary type for the sighted, and Braille dots as well, so the blind can use it. Did you ever hear of such a calendar?

At a single glance you can see on this calendar every month and day in the year. With it you can never want for a date, nor can you ever be crowded for time—you have the whole year before you. Write for a copy, which will be mailed to you without charge.



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LIGHT



Happy John Faivre is the blind 'cellist on "Captain Dobbsie's" radio broadcasts, and counts hundreds of blind listeners in his audience (See Page 8).

—Photo courtesy Shell Happytime



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Braille makes its way to Siam. Chamrass, blind teacher and preacher, shown at his Braille lessons (center); First Siamese blind pupils being taught by Robert Irwin, an American missionary. See the article on Page 9.

Photos courtesy Mr. Irwin.

Contents for March-April, 1933

The "Pushed Through" Language	3
Blind—But Still a Mechanic, by Charles J. Peterson	4
Learning to Read by Finger-Tip, by J. Robert Atkinson	6
"Happytime" is Right! by "Captain Dobbie"	8
"Seeds" the Siamese Call Them, by Robert Irwin	9
And This Paid Dividends in 1932	10
A Waiting List of 1,000	12
A Postman for the Fun of It	14
Seen With Half an Eye	15
Merry Xmas—and Happy Bank Holidays	15
Making Three Blind Men Very Happy	16

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Sponsorship of BOOKS and MAGAZINES, published in Braille, for the use of the blind, on a non-profit basis and free to the blind unable to pay.

Free HOME TEACHING of the blind in the mastery of the Braille system.

Maintenance of a FREE LENDING REFERENCE LIBRARY, being stocked with business journals, guides and numerous books on all vocations, trades and professions, followed by the blind, including works on the principles of insurance, commercial law, real estate, business ethics, social and political economy, salesmanship, journalism, and many other subjects.

BUREAU of BETTER BUSINESS for the BLIND to assist blind adults in choosing a trade, profession or business suitable to their talents.

SCHOLARSHIPS for vocational and higher education in branches of the trades and professions found practical for the blind, such scholarship to provide readers also when necessary.

BUSINESS FINANCE to finance the blind business men and women by way of loans under supervision of the Braille Institute Trustees, until they are permanently and successfully established.

To engage in all other HUMANITARIAN efforts incidental to the social, industrial, professional and literary welfare of the blind not being covered by other agencies, public or private.

Our Magazines: "LIGHT"—a success magazine of the blind; the "BRAILLE MIRROR" and "MARCH OF EVENTS", Braille monthlies for the blind, with semi-monthly news service.

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James H. Collins, Editor

J. Robert Atkinson, Associate Editor

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VOL. 5

MARCH-APRIL, 1933

NO. 2

The "Pushed Through" Language

By JAMES H. COLLINS

ALL WILL ROGERS knows is what he reads in the newspapers. He says so himself. And even then, some things escape him, as he testified recently when a blind girl in Ohio sent him one of his own articles transcribed in Braille.

"It had the dots punched pretty near through with something," he said, "that they can feel of with their sensitive fingers and just read it right off. All pushed through like that. I must write to my friend Helen Keller about this. I don't know how long that system of writing has been out, but Braille or whoever she was sure should have had the Nobel prize."

* * *

Now, right here in Will Roger's own home town, for a dozen years, another excowpuncher has been making "pushed through" books and magazines for the blind. J. Robert Atkinson wrote Will Rogers to say that he has a large following among the blind readers of the "Braille Mirror," which regularly reprints selections from his articles.

However, with only one blind person in a thousand people, even as active a human being as Will Rogers

may remain uninformed about the blind, and their thoughts, and ways, and dreams.

* * *

It happens only once, in several thousand normal lives, that grown men and women who are as much alive, and enjoying the world, as Will Rogers, suddenly find themselves cut off from life as they have learned to live it.

These individuals are the newly-blind, who have lost eyesight through accident or disease, and they face the job of complete re-education and re-construction, including learning to read the "pushed through" language.

That ordeal comes to few among the many of us, but it is critical, and fortunate are the newly-blinded to find help awaiting them in such an institution as the Braille Institute of America. It offers the understanding and experience of those who have passed through the same ordeal, organized for their assistance, placing at their service the accumulated invention and intelligence of the blind through past centuries.

In more ways than one the blind have "pushed through."

Blind...But Still a Mechanic

When Eyesight Failed, This Machinist
Mastered His Old Trade All Over

By CHARLES J. PETERSON

I WILL start with my experience before becoming blind, as a sort of background.

I was educated in the public grammar schools of Chicago, and went to work after graduating, but supplemented this schooling later with night courses at the Lewis Institute and Armour Institute, and with a course in the American Correspondence School. These courses were in mechanical engineering.

After a number of positions of various sorts, I settled down to work for a firm of engineering and machinery manufacturers, who specialized in elevating and conveying systems for large industrial plants. During twenty years, I was connected with four manufacturing concerns in various capacities, such as mail clerk, order clerk, purchasing agent, advertising manager and sales engineer. During the World War I worked in a civilian capacity for the United States Government as an appraiser of large plants, and in speeding up production of large armament for the Ordnance Department.

My blindness did not come suddenly, but was a gradual decline over a period of about fifteen years, and though I did all I could to avoid it, by consulting the best eye specialists, nevertheless the shock of blindness sent my nerves to the winds, and I went to a sanatorium, where I thought I would have to spend the rest of my days.

This was all changed by meeting a state home teacher, who was teaching some of the other blind patients to read Braille and make baskets. Through my conversations with her I found out about other blind folks who were making a financial success in the world in many different ways. So I joined their organization, and mingled with them, and took up typewriting and Braille reading.

However, the occupations which these home teachers taught did not appeal to me, as I did not see much steady income from basket making, rug weaving or chair caning, which were the chief occupations taught.

I heard about the placement work being done by the Chicago Lighthouse for the blind, and thought I would look into it. I secured my present position, and the incentive to get out into the active world,



—Braille Institute photo.

Charles J. Peterson

through the kindness and unselfish zeal of Miss Edith Swift, director of this institution, and I do not know how I would have got the start without the kind co-operation of this Lady and her organization. Well, I was at work inside of three days in the Chicago plant of the Edison General Electric Co., a subsidiary of the General Electric Co. I have been there ever since. Of course, it was hard at first, and I realized I would have to make up for my lack of sight by doing all I could in other ways. As a result, I have never been tardy in nine years, and have been absent only in cases of absolute necessity, and make it a point to begin and stop work the instant the bell rings, keeping a steady pace throughout the day, and in this way produce as much, or more in some cases, than the sighted operators working with me.

I did not have any experience with hand tools, even though I had mechanical

knowledge, but it did not take long to learn when I applied myself conscientiously. It was hard, very hard, at first, and my hands and feet ached, but that soon wore off, and pretty soon I was making as much as the sighted workers—in fact, more than quite a few. At last I realized I was no longer a liability to the community, but an asset, and self-supporting.

I firmly believe that any blind person in fairly good health can make a success of this kind of work, if he sticks to it, but he must gain the confidence of his employers by trying every minute of the day, and make up for his deficiency by punctuality, steady attendance and strict attention to duty.

Above all, he must not rely on the fact that he is blind to keep his job. This can't be done. When a blind person is hired, it is usually through the kindness of some person of influence in the firm, or some social agency, and at first he is shown every courtesy and help. But in the long run this is forgotten, not through lack of kindness, but due to the zeal of efficiency. For his own sake, as well as that of other blind wishing to be employed, he must not expect to be carried along simply on account of his handicap.

All of my fellow workers who see have been more than kind, but one must try to do for himself all that is possible.

A word about the liability of a blind man being hurt in a busy factory. I find that a blind man is more careful than the sighted, not only in the handling of tools, but in getting around the plant. In nine years, I have had only a few scratches, while all around me sighted workers "get nicked," as we call it.

I firmly believe that if more effort were given to training the adult blind, or even the younger blind, to go out in industrial life, it would be a big advance in the right direction. Trades now taught the blind are all right, but by no means a source of living revenue. They are overdone, and the return for time spent is pitifully small.

Of course, I realize that many blind folks are not capable of going out into factories, on account of physical handicaps. But these cases are in the minority. If the training and placement for such work were emphasized more, and factory managers educated to place more confidence in the blind, by the performance of the blind themselves, there would be a big field opened, making them self-sup-

TO LOUIS BRAILLE

By Arthur A. Frickholm

(Blind)

As I run my fingers lightly
Across a page of Braille,
I feel so very grateful
To the man who blazed the trail.
He gave to us a system
Which has come to mean so much
To those who walk in darkness,
And have to read by touch.
He sacrificed his leisure
To make the world more bright
For those who were to follow—
Those others without sight.
To him we owe much gratitude,
To him, who did not fail,
May his name live on forever—
The name of Louis Braille.

Blind Harness Overseer to the Circus

Though totally blind, says Believe-It-or-Not Ripley, the overseer of the entire harness department of the Ringling and Barnum circuses, Louis Panzer, continues to do everything required by his trade as well as when he had his sight.

Eleven years ago, Mr. Panzer lost his vision, but he still cuts, stitches and operates his own harness-making bench, as well as supervising and laying out the work for his three assistant harness-makers. Every piece of the huge stock of circus harness passes through his hands, to receive his judgment on materials and repairs. He is now fifty years old, and may be seen at his bench every day, either at the winter quarters of the circus in Sarasota, Florida, or while the show is on tour during the summer.

After centuries, says "Collier's Weekly," laws now enforced in many countries have stopped the fiendish practice of blinding birds—such as quail—so as to make them efficient decoys for hunters. Paradoxically, a blind song bird sings constantly.

porting and self-confident. My strongest ambition is to get out into this field as a placement worker, to show employers what the blind can do if given an opportunity, and thereby helping my fellow blind find themselves.

I might add that I am active in the work among the blind, being a member of the Social and Mutual Advancement Association, the Braille Musical Club, the Braille Theatre Guild and the American Association of Workers for the Blind.

Editor's Note—Mr. Peterson's modesty led him to omit the fact that he has several patents to his credit, and that he has enjoyed increases of pay and cash rewards for improvements which he has suggested to his employers.

Learning to Read by Finger-tip

Braille Neither Easy Nor Impossible...
It Gives Courage to the Newly-Blinded

By J. ROBERT ATKINSON

READING by the blind, through the sense of touch, is not the simplest thing on earth. Neither is it the most difficult. But to the blind person who has mastered the art, it is a question whether or not there is anything that gives him as much genuine satisfaction.

I know of no better way to emphasize the benefit, to the blind, of literature printed in a form they may read for themselves, than by a reminder of the place literature has occupied in the advancement of the human race, socially and spiritually.

To the newly-blinded adult, the invention of the Braille system, and its mastery, restores at least one lost element of independence—the ability to read again for himself.

At first, the process may be slow, but in time he is enabled to read with some satisfaction, and finally, after much patience and perseverance, he prefers reading to himself, rather than being read to.

A seemingly miraculous transformation then takes place in the life of that blind adult. Tracing his sensitive fingers along the dotted lines of a Braille book or magazine, he is led gradually into a light-filled world of ideas, the doors to which he imagined, when first losing his sight, were closed to him forever.

Stories of adventure and romance, and of travel and exploration, mean more to the blind reader than ever before. At least, this is the experience of thousands of blind persons all over the world.

Usually, however, it is a long struggle for the newly-blinded adult to reach this perspective.

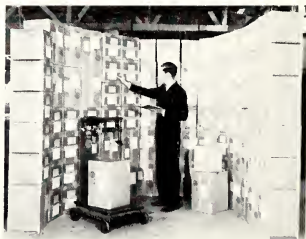
Obsessed with a sense of helplessness, a feeling that he can never again do the things he did before losing his sight, usually the newly-blinded adult is reluctant to make a start, or even to admit that

he can ever enjoy this strange way of reading through the sense of touch. He simply cannot imagine it possible to enjoy books and magazines printed in raised letters.

In the first place, his blindness has made him very sensitive, and he is therefore loath to begin learning something he imagines will forever classify him as a blind person.

This feeling is often exaggerated by the fact that perhaps the only blind person he has ever seen reading is the street corner mendicant, fumbling over a few lines of a soiled book, perhaps the Bible, with the proverbial tin cup at hand, into which the on-lookers are expected to drop their coins.

In other words, reading by the blind, to the newly-blinded adult, is merely a mild form of begging for a livelihood, or else it is something very impractical.



A large book on a large subject! "The United States of America," by David Seville Muzzey, of Columbia University, in 14 volumes, each copy weighing 58 pounds. The whole edition of 31 copies is shown packed for shipment under the directions of the Librarian of Congress, for whom the job was done.

Our Superintendent of Printing believes this takes rank as the third largest book ever printed for the blind, only the King James Bible and "Les Miserables" being larger. At any rate, it is the third largest printed by the Braille Institute of America, and we printed the other two as well.

No wonder, then, that self-respecting persons, recently blinded, often show signs of ineptness when asked if they would like to learn to read.

Oh, yes—they would like to read again, would like to enjoy good books and magazines as they did before losing their sight. But not **that way!**

"In the first place," they say, "it isn't practical. No one can read fast enough by that method to preserve any continuity of thought."

If they could only see the inside of a schoolroom for blind children, or within the homes of many persons blinded in mature life, who are reading Braille books and magazines, sometimes aloud to others with sight, almost as rapidly as is possible with normal eyesight, they would change their minds, and take up the mastery of Braille at once.

There are, today, literally thousands of blind men and women throughout the world, many of whom are engaged in useful occupations of some kind, who are ready to admit that it would be impossible for them to do anything at all by way of self-support without being able to read and write the Braille system.

Naturally, the question often asked is, "How long does it take the average person to master Braille?"

One could as practically ask how long it takes the average person, with sight, to master a foreign language. The answer depends upon the individual, and the aptitude for study and learning. Some blind persons at the age of 80 have mastered the Braille system in an amazingly short time. Others much younger have to work harder to get it.

To be more definite, the instructor in Braille reading, supplied by the Braille Institute of America, recently graduated a man of 78 years in thirteen lessons, covering a period of about six weeks, and another in seven lessons over a period of seven weeks. Others with twice as many lessons still read slowly.

The process of learning to read by the sense of touch is much the same as when in childhood one began his primary studies. The learner, though a college graduate, must begin all over again. Fumbling over the raised dots which stand for letters, he first learns the A B C's. Then he begins to spell out words, letter by letter, and so slow is the process that often, when negotiating a long word, by the time the finger deciphers all the Braille letters in it, he is ready to swear

Our Own Who's Who

J. C. Everding is a "native son," having been born in San Francisco. His early boyhood and young manhood was spent in that city and its sister city across the bay, Berkeley.

He was associated with his father in the starch manufacturing business in the bay city for a number of years, subsequently going into the business of subdividing farm lands in Tulare County.



J. C. Everding

Twenty years ago Mr. Everding came to Los Angeles, and has been engaged in the real estate business. He is president of the Midtown Development Association, and a member of the governing council of the Girl Scouts in Pasadena.

It was during his early years in Berkeley that Mr. Everding first became interested in the blind, as it was here that he saw at first hand the wonderful work that is done at the California School for the Blind. He was impressed with the way a timid young student would enter the school, utterly discouraged and disconsolate, only to find that there was a place for him in the world, and something for him to do, thus making him self-reliant and a valuable citizen. Mr. Everding believes there are many fields of endeavor that have not yet been opened to the blind, and it is to this end that he is dedicating his service with the Braille Institute of America—that the blind may become self-supporting, and not objects of charity.

there never was such a word in the dictionary.

At least that was my experience many times, as a neophyte.

But gradually, just as the eye learns to take in a whole word at a glance, which the primary pupil must spell out letter by letter, the finger-ball becomes educated to recognize at a glance short words frequently used. In time, through practice and the art of reading by context, sight in the finger-ball becomes as acute and dependable as in the eye-ball, until eventually the blind touch reader reads with the same degree of accuracy as the sighted reader.

"Happytime" Is Right!

Even Via Radio, You Must Sense the Smile
Accompaniment to Blind John's 'Cello

By "Captain Dobbsie, Commander of Shell Ship of Joy"

(Hugh Barrett Dobbs, Shell Oil Company Radio Programs)

(See Cover)

The radio programs of "Captain Dobbsie" are among the most popular air features heard in the West, being broadcast between 8 and 8:30 every morning except Sunday from eleven stations in California, Oregon and Washington.

Hugh Barrett Dobbs originated this feature for the Shell Oil Company, and John Faivre, the blind 'cellist, has played on the programs every week since the start. Mr. Dobbs soon found that a great number of blind listeners were in his "Shell Happytime" audience, and has therefore featured many other blind musicians and singers, and frequently reads articles referring to the accomplishments of the blind. He is a regular reader of "Light," and has read articles and verse from its pages on his radio programs.

ONE of the most popular radio artists of the day is John Faivre, whose beautiful rich 'cello tones vibrate over the air. He is a particular favorite with Shell Happytime audiences.

John, as he is called by all who know him, has been blind since birth. He seems never to have found this a handicap, for even as a small boy he romped and played and enjoyed life quite as much as any other boy of his age.

Very early in life, John displayed a marked talent for music. He could go to the piano and play any melody that he heard. However, the vibrating tones of the 'cello appealed to his musical soul, and at the age of twelve his Mother obtained a 'cello for him, and gave him the opportunity of studying with the best musicians in San Francisco.

His Mother was his help and guide at this period, playing his scales and exercises for him on the piano, his ear being unusually keen—he needed to hear a musical composition but once to learn and memorize it.

Always anxious to surge ahead, John decided to make music his profession.

So with this in mind, he proceeded to learn every piece of music he could hear or get his hands on. He would borrow

music from fellow musicians, who gladly lent it to this ambitious boy, and in no time he had a repertoire of thousands of numbers. He never forgets any composition that he has played—it may be years before he plays it again, but he plays it just as accurately as though it had been played the day before.

His fame soon spread, and his services were demanded by the best orchestral conductors, who knew that he was the most dependable man in the orchestra.

His solos are a source of joy to all who hear him, and his face is wreathed with smiles as he plays—you see, he loves this medium of expressing himself.

John has never gone through a period of despondency; he has the sunniest disposition imaginable, and always looks upon the bright side of life. His motto is, "Try, and you must succeed."

And his hobby is—fires! He is like a wild colt when he hears a fire alarm. He follows all alarms, and knows most of the San Francisco fire heroes by their first names. He also likes to ride on boats, and takes an airplane trip whenever he can.

At present, he is associated with Emily and Anthony Linden, fine concert artists and exacting musicians. Anthony Linden is the solo flutist of the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra, and Emily Linden has composed many beautiful numbers and concertized throughout the United States. The Lindens have chosen John as the third member of their trio because of his fine musicianship and his artistic playing. Their programs with the Shell Happytime, which occur on Wednesday mornings, are outstanding for their classical beauty.

John was born in San Francisco, and has lived there all his life. He is not married—he devotes his life to the Mother who has done so much to make up for his loss of sight.

• "Be sure it's the Braille Institute"

"Seeds" the Siamese Call Them

How an American Missionary Planted
the Six Braille Dots in Neglected Siam

By ROBERT IRWIN

Secretary, Siam and Laos Agency,
American Bible Society, Bangkok, Siam.

(See illustrations Page 1)

SIAM has an enormous number of blind, and nothing but our one attempt has yet been done for them. In 1915, on my way home to San Francisco to take part in the Bible Congress, I undertook to adapt Braille to the need of the Siamese blind. I had been turning over the idea for a couple of years, and picked up information wherever I could find it—and that was almost nothing.

Just as I was sailing, an English Braille primer fell into my hands, not much help to Siamese Braille, but suggesting that the six dots ("pebbles—seeds" the Siamese call them) ought to be adaptable to the Tai language.

I worked hard for six weeks on the voyage, and wrote out the story of "The Demon of Gerasa" from Mark's Gospel. Shortly after landing I got in touch with Dr. Newel Perry, of the California School for the Blind, at Berkeley, and Mrs. Perry, who were most helpful. Together we revised the system, and Dr. Perry and his students embossed the plates and printed fifty copies of two stories from the Gospels in the Lao dialect of the Tai, that being the one I was most familiar with, and the only one I had an opportunity to teach.

When I returned to Siam, I began to teach a little blind girl, altogether illiterate, and an educated blind man in Prae of North Siam. The child was slow, but the blind man, Mr. Goldeyes, mastered the system quickly, both reading and writing. Unfortunately, he failed to keep it up. It is one of the most unaccountable things in this strange country that friends are not in the least interested in helping a person who is trying to do something hard. With no one to help him, it is not strange that he should have neglected practice, and soon forgot all he had learned.

It took some time to get a start in South Siam. Always on the alert, we heard of a blind man at Petriew who

seemed interested in hearing of Braille. At once, we sent a teacher to him, and shortly after another blind man joined the class, and a blind boy. The boy picked up the system at once, and made rapid progress, but his family moved away, and he was lost to the work. One of the men had fingers so calloused that he could not feel the dots. We suggested that he try his little fingers, and that succeeded. By and by, money for the teacher gave out, and we had to recall him to Bangkok.

In 1930, we got Chamrass (pronounced "Chamrat"). He had been treated by a Chinese doctor for sore eyes, and was left totally blind. The missionaries of Nakon Patom found him in despair, and took him home with them. After a while they sent him to Bangkok to study Braille. We furnished him a teacher at the Bible House, and gave him our own attention as much as we could. We had just finished a revision of our system. Chamrass has become quite expert, and has developed into an enthusiastic teacher, preacher and Bible student. He is now transliterating the Siamese Bible into Braille, and spends a lot of time reading it to anyone who will listen. He is a member of our Gospel team and orchestra, and a keen speaker, and is much sought after as a speaker at meetings.

The 43 consonants, 49 vowels and 7 tone marks in the Siamese alphabet are expressed in Braille by 49 combinations—23 consonants, 14 vowels and 12 symbols.

Talented Blind Professor

Although he was born blind, says John Hix, in "Strange as it Seems," Dr. Wilhelm Steinberg, of Breslau, Germany, is a doctor of philosophy, a professor of philosophy, a professor of sociology, a professor extraordinary, and the author of books on social ethics and psychology. He holds a Ph. D. degree from the University of Breslau, and has advanced in his special fields far beyond millions of educated persons who have enjoyed the advantage of eyesight.

And This Paid Dividends in 1932

Times Were Also Lean for the Braille Institute
But Work Was Extended . . . Annual Meeting

SHOWING an increase both in interest and attendance, the members of Braille Institute of America, Inc., pursuant to call, met in annual session March 7, 1933, to elect Trustees for the ensuing year, and to review the activities of the Institute in its many departments functioning exclusively for the social, industrial and literary advancement of the blind.

Four new Trustees were elected who, with the five re-elected members, form a board of nine Trustees, consisting of the following persons: Robert A. Odell, W. H. Kindig, Arthur L. Sonderegger, Kenneth E. Marshall, J. C. Everding, J. Robert Atkinson, Frank C. Collier, Dr. R. W. Whomes and Edwin L. Gardner.

Included in the service rendered to the blind during the year 1932 are the establishment of a Home Teaching department, creation of a Bureau of Better Business for the Blind, installation of a Free Circulating Reference Library of Braille books and magazines, all of which were authorized by the members at the annual meeting in March, 1932.

In their report to the members, the Trustees pointed with pride to the fact that, in a year when other institutions, philanthropic and commercial, have operated at a loss, the Braille Institute's activities showed progress in every department and a net gain in excess of operating expense.

While rejoicing over the progress made, it was not forgotten that, to human sense, the organization has functioned against great odds. Not only have the economic conditions weighed heavily upon the blind, thereby increasing the demands upon the institution, but by the same token, resources have been limited, being entirely dependent upon the voluntary support of the public.

To convince philanthropy that the blind have no literary needs, or need of occupation, that are not secondary to the needs of feeding and clothing the unemployed, and of finding work for the physically strong, is the argument the Bureau of Better Business had to meet all too often during the year. Neverthe-

less, instead of curtailing its activities, they have been expanded more and more, and while there have been many disappointments in the realization of a fuller service to the blind, yet there have been many forward strides.

The Free Circulating Reference Library is almost fully organized for service. Two hundred and thirty titles, covering a wide range of subjects, have been added, and it is expected the library will be functioning smoothly by midsummer of 1933.

The Home Teaching Department, members were shown, is functioning very successfully, several pupils being taught and graduated during the year, who had been discouraged in the mastery of Braille, on account of their age or other handicaps.

* * *

The circulation of "The Braille Mirror" showed a slight increase during the year. The "Mirror" is the pioneer Braille monthly issued by the Braille Institute, having been established in July, 1926. In August, 1932, "March of Events," which previously had been made up entirely from matter appearing in the current numbers of "World's Work," kindly sent in advance through the courtesy of Doubleday, Doran & Company, came out under the editorial supervision of the Institute's staff, and has been making many friends and increasing its circulation steadily. A feature of these two monthlies is the semi-monthly news service they offer, "March of Events" coming out on the first and the "Mirror" on the fifteenth of the month.

By far the best medium for making friends for Braille Institute of America is the magazine "Light," the object of which is "to further acquaint sighted people with the ambitions and success of the blind, and enlist aid in meeting their problem of securing good reading matter." Thirty-four thousand copies of "Light" were distributed in 1932 under a plan which makes it conservative to say that the output for the year reached an aggregate of 50,000 or 60,000 persons.

"Light" has been quoted in many editorials in prominent papers throughout

the country, and in some instances its articles have been reprinted in magazines having international circulation.

The Home Welfare Department was instrumental in supplying several destitute families, having blind members, with food, clothing and supplies. In one instance, the father being blind, the children were completely outfitted with warm clothing and shoes, and a supply of groceries was donated.

* * *

The Bureau of Better Business for the Blind, while not organized for service until late in the year, has made rapid growth and has assisted several blind persons in finding themselves. This field is big and troublesome, one that has never been fully covered in any locality, although agencies for the blind have been directing attention to it for years. It is a problem that has challenged the resourcefulness of social workers everywhere, and one that still baffles agencies for the blind. Judging by the results already obtained it is, however, being solved successfully by the Braille Institute.

The following reflect briefly some of the Bureau's activities for the year:

One blind man unable to purchase a canvasser's license was furnished the money to procure it and since that time has been supporting himself through the sale of useful commodities; the property of one blind woman was saved from foreclosure; a blind man with five children was supplied with glasses needed in order to assist him in getting about and is now establishing himself, with the aid of the Institute, in a small market in his community; a blind Spanish boy was placed at the Harrington Home for Boys for the summer, where he remained until school commenced and he could return to the resident school at Berkeley; a girl, a graduate of the University of Southern California, with deficient eyesight, was placed at a summer camp as a recreation leader; a blind beauty operator who had been rehabilitated by the State was aided in a business which she had established through her own resourcefulness; a blind boy was outfitted with adequate clothing to enable him to go to school at Berkeley; on twelve hour's notice 28 blind men were secured for work in the Fox picture, "Cavalcade," for which they each received \$10; and the little blind children who played in R. K. O.'s "Symphony in

Six Million" were secured through the good offices of our Bureau of Better Business. These children each received \$11 a day and were complimented by the director of the picture for their splendid work.

These are just a few of the many services that are being rendered by the Institute's Bureau of Better Business for the Blind, which promises to be one of its major activities when funds are available for enlarged operation.

The Trustees closed their report with a plea to all members to redouble their efforts in an endeavor to interest new friends and contributors, pointing out that an investment in Braille Institute of America, Inc., pays substantial spiritual dividends.

President Robert A. Odell, in welcoming the new members on the board, assured them that they were coming into a service which would yield a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction; he warned them that there were many problems and difficulties, but the spiritual reward which comes from such service is theirs.

New Books for the Blind

(Printed on the presses of the Braille Institute of America, Inc.)

- John Adams, by John T. Morse, Jr., 2 vols., in press, selling price \$5.00.
- ✓ *Pioneers of France in the New World*, by Francis Parkman, 4 vols., in press, selling price \$10.00.
- ✓ *LaSalle and the Discovery of the Great West*, by Francis Parkman, 4 vols., in press, selling price \$12.00.
- ✓ *The Old Regime in Canada*, by Francis Parkman, 3 vols., in press, selling price \$9.00.
- ✓ *Sir Walter Scott*, by John Buchan, 3 vols., cost \$16.80, selling price \$9.35.
- ✓ *Peter Ashley*, by Du Bose Heyward, 2 vols., cost \$8.58, selling price \$6.35.
- ✓ *A Long Time Ago*, by Margaret Kennedy, 2 vols., in press, selling price \$6.25.
- ✓ *Mutiny on the Bounty*, by Charles B. Nordhoff and J. N. Hall, 4 vols., in press, selling price \$8.85.
- ✓ *Our Times, Vol. IV, The War Begins*, by Mark Sullivan, 4 vols., in press, selling price \$9.00.
- ✓ *Flowering Wilderness*, by John Galsworthy, 2 vols., cost \$8.25; selling price \$6.25.

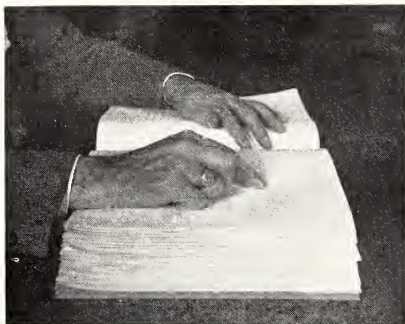
Blinded at Work

Although most industrial accidents to the eyes of workmen are preventable, according to the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness, it is estimated that in American industry more than 2,000 lose the sight of one eye or both eyes annually, and that approximately 300,000 minor injuries are sustained. The waste in time lost, compensation and medical bills is placed at \$50,000,000.

A Waiting List of 1,000

Blind Readers Have Filed Requests for
That Many Volumes of the Bible in Braille

MILE posts along the highway of Bibles for the blind were counted by the members of Braille Bible Society, Inc., in the annual meeting held at the Society's headquarters 739 North Vermont avenue, Los Angeles, February 23.



in the penmanship of sighted persons. Among the devices which enable blind persons to write long hand is a grooved board, the grooves being wide and deep enough to follow as lines when writing. Many of the blind who are fortunate enough to own

One hundred and twenty-seven members attended the meeting in person or by proxy, and much gratitude was expressed for another progressive year of service to blind readers of the Bible.

The activities of the Society for the calendar year ending December 31, 1932, were reviewed by the members, and on the first ballot all of the incumbent directors were re-elected for the ensuing year.

An interesting feature of the meeting was the reading of many letters received from the blind, expressing gratitude for the Scriptures in Braille, which had been supplied them by the Society, either as gifts or at prices averaging only 45 cents a volume.

The Society's special price to the blind for the Scriptures is ordinarily \$1 a volume, or \$21 for the Bible complete, the cost of which to the Society averages \$7.85 a volume. That the Society realized only 45 cents a volume for the output of the year is explained by the fact that the great bulk of volumes distributed represented outright donations, very few of the blind being able to pay anything at all.

Of special interest concerning the letters read at the meeting is that they were written by the blind themselves—some on Braille typewriters, others on ordinary typewriters, perfectly done, and still others in long hand, as legibly written, if not more so, than is often witnessed today

typewriters are expert typists, their letters for the most part being models of workmanship both from the standpoint of typing and composition.

Braille Bible Society, Inc., is a non-sectarian, non-profit organization, chartered under the laws of the State of California exclusively for the purpose of supplying to the blind the King James version of the Bible printed in Braille at the least possible expense to the blind as a philanthropic work. Hundreds of volumes were distributed during the year on this basis, to blind readers living in all parts of the world, without respect to class or creed.

In reporting the activities for the year, the directors pointed out that the Society's service to the blind had been restricted to some extent because of adverse economic conditions, which have affected philanthropic institutions the same as other enterprises.

"Just as the stress of circumstances has increased the demands upon philanthropy, to feed the hungry and to care for the unemployed, by the same token, the blind, whose incomes in many instances have been entirely cut off, are hungry for the bread of life which only the Bible in Braille can supply. Consequently, during the last year the Braille Bible Society has experienced an increased demand for Bibles," the Directors' report stated.

The list of persons requesting free grants of the Bible in Braille continues to increase. At the present time the Society has on file requests from many blind readers for various portions of the Scriptures aggregating in all nearly 1,000 volumes. These requests will be granted just as soon as funds make it possible. As the Society has no other resources than the voluntary support of the public, contributions for this purpose will be gratefully received. Such contributions, or letters of inquiry for further information on the subject, should be addressed to Braille Bible Society, Inc., 739 North Vermont avenue, Los Angeles.

Our Own Who's Who

Helping to supply his brother's need was the chief incentive for Edwin L. Gardner identifying himself with Braille Institute of America. Some ten years ago



Edwin L. Gardner

he became interested in the work founded and directed by Mr. Atkinson to promote the literary advancement of the blind and since that time he has been active in ministering to their needs, happy also to bring to the attention of sighted people the hopes and ambitions, as well as the necessities, of the blind.

Mr. Gardner was born in the State of Illinois. He was educated in the schools of Illinois and California, where his family moved in 1905.

Lumbering was the business which first engaged his attention, while dairying and farming have also been among the chief

interests. He is secretary of the Panorama Ranch Company, owners of the largest ranch in one piece within the city limits of Los Angeles.

Mr. Gardner was elected a Trustee of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., at the annual meeting March 7, 1933.

A Blind Legislator Takes Notes

In the South Dakota legislature, a blind representative, serving his first term, may be seen daily at work with his Braille slate, following the new measures introduced, and the debate.

State Representative Henry J. Gierau, elected from Wewela, Tripp County, has been blind since the age of five, and is now forty-one. He is a bachelor, and was elected by those who know him well, and is making good despite his handicap, for at the end of the day's session he has a comprehensive record of important details in Braille. He is especially interested in South Dakota's institution for the blind and physically disabled, and pays particular attention to legislation affecting them.

"To make Braille literature a mirror of life, to keep this mirror clean that it may reflect the beautiful, the good and the true, in social, civil, political and economic reform, so that the people in Brailleland may keep well informed on world affairs, acquire a renewed interest in life, and become resourceful, happy citizens of the world."—Objective of "Braille Mirror."



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PRospect 5151

A Postman for the Fun of It

Blind Bert Seip Likes the Unpaid Work That Takes Him Around Among People

WHEN Believe-It-or-Not Ripley sought an outstanding fact about Bert Seip, the blind mail carrier of Lake Zurich, Illinois—other than the fact of his blindness—he discovered that in thirty years of delivering letters, Mr. Seip had never made a mistake.

Believe it or not, this blind man's system is as near foolproof as anything human can be.

"My name is really Peter Albert Seip," he says, "but I have always been called 'Bert,' and am best known by that name.

"Postoffice work is what I have enjoyed doing most these many years, and my system depends upon the memory of a blind person. Our Postmaster sorts the letters, and tells where each one goes, and I keep track of them by size, shape, weight and so forth, and by carrying them in separate pockets. I do not get a salary for this work, but do it every day, and

look forward to it as a pleasurable daily task which keeps me in touch with all my friends and neighbors, and helps me get other work for which I am paid.

"I was born in Waukegan, Illinois, November 28, 1867, but since 1876 have lived in Lake Zurich. I went to the public schools for six years, and when twelve years old, on November 1, 1879, was made blind. It was a Sunday afternoon, and I went hunting with a neighbor, and a gun accidentally went off, and the result was my blindness. After being shot, I was sick for eight months, and suffered from shock another four months.

"Finally, after I got well, my parents sent me to the Jacksonville School for the Blind, and I was there for six years, from the age of fourteen to twenty. They taught me broom-making, chair-caning and brush-making, with various other interesting things, and I still cane chairs if I can get such work at times to keep busy.

"I have a radio, and think it one of the most wonderful inventions of its kind for the blind, and enjoy it very much.

"I like work. My father had a grain elevator and coal yard, and I used to shovel many tons of grain and coal when it was necessary. I have done my own housework, cooking and mending, for four years, but I am now living with a brother. Thank you for the copies of 'Light'—they are very interesting."



Bert Seip

HOME LONGINGS

By Helen May Martin

(Blind and Deaf)

I'm longing for my garden of dreams,
And the rustic seat beneath the trees,
Where the golden sunlight streams,
With fragrance-laden breeze;
That make up the days of happy hours,
With floating bird songs clear,
There all around a world of flowers,
With memories old and dear.

Seen With Half an Eye

Woodman spare that tree,
Touch not a single bough.
It oft has sheltered me
And I'll protect it now,
Cut down the Spruce,
The Birch, the Pine
But spare this Slippery
Elm of mine;
It's the only tree
My wife can't climb!
—Hollywood Citizen.

* * *

The girl who thinks no man is good enough for her, may often be right, but she is more often left.

* * *

"I suppose you will want me to give up my job, Henry, when we are married?"
"How much do you earn at it?"
"Sixty a week."

"That isn't a job. That's a career. I wouldn't want to interfere with your career, girlie."

* * *

At the revival meeting a Negro knelt at the mourners' bench, his enormous bare feet sticking up behind him.

The revivalist was near-sighted. He peered earnestly at the Negro, patted him on the shoulder and murmured: "Bless you, brother." Then kneeling behind him and putting a hand on each heel, he said, "And bless these two dear little boys."

If a Hottentot tot taught a Hottentot tot to talk e'er the tot could totter, ought the Hottentot tot be taught to say aught, or naught, or what ought to be taught her?

If to hoot and to toot a Hottentot tot be taught by a Hottentot tutor, should the tutor get hot if the Hottentot tot hoot and toot at the Hottentot tutor?

* * *

Paddy: "I'd kill me wife fer a thousand dollars!"

Mike: "And what would ye do fer ten?"

Paddy: "Fer ten, begorra, I'd live with her!"

* * *

Bridget had been discharged.

Extracting a \$5 bill from her wages, she threw it to Fido.

Then the shocked mistress heard her exclaim: "Sur'n I niver fergit a friend; that's fer helpin' me wash the dishes!"

* * *

Prof.: (To student who has been late often): "When were you born?"

Stude: "The second of April."

Prof.: "Late again."

* * *

"Motoring is surely a great thing for reducing. I used to be fat and sluggish before everybody used automobiles, but now I'm spry and energetic."

"I didn't know you drove."

"I don't—I dodge."

* * *

A Chinese had a toothache and phoned a dentist for an appointment. "Two-thirty all right?" asked the doctor. "Yes," replied the Celestial, "tooth hurtee, all right. What time I come?"

Merry Xmas... and Happy Bank Holidays

As the Banks Closed, A Blind Brother in Egypt Sent Greetings—Making it a Merry Life



A MERRY Christmas to You?

What do you think of a greeting like that, in your mail, with the spring birds singing outside—and on the morn-

ing that all the banks in the United States were ordered to take a holiday!

Well, it's a merry life. This Christmas greeting came to me a little late, from a blind man in Egypt, Mr. Faheem Guyyed, who tells me how much he enjoyed some copies of our "Braille Mirror" that were sent him last year. He asks to be put on my free mailing list, for he is very poor. And Braille reading is scarce in Egypt—hardly a hundred blind people in the whole country are able to read the six-dot language.

By the time you read this, Uncle Sam will have provided something you can use for money, spendable but not hoardable. My ability to send our Braille magazines to worthy blind readers, unable to pay in any kind of money, depends upon the subscriptions I get for "Light," from sighted people who have a heart and a thought for their less fortunate brothers. Whatever you are using for money, when you read this, send me three dollars for a subscription to "Light," and your remittance will be spent twice, a good magazine to you, and an equally good magazine to some blind brother—or sister—who will sure appreciate it.

And a Happy New Year to You!

The Subscription Man

Making Three Blind Men Very Happy

How the Lions Club of Larchmont, New York,
Helped Them Get Into Self-Supporting Business

EVEN during the depression, three blind men have been started in business by the Lions Club of Larchmont, New York, and besides the business counsel of members in starting, they have been aided with judicious publicity.

Two of these blind business men are young—Adolph Munter, Jr., who lost his sight through the explosion of a dynamite cap when he was seven, and Arthur A. Frickholm, who became blind by an accident when he was twenty-three.

Mr. Frickholm is the senior partner in a novel enterprise—nothing else than a "blind art shop," where articles made by sightless workers of New York State, and particularly Westchester County, could be placed on sale. Also, this shop undertakes the re-seating of all types of chairs, a service which was not being offered anywhere in Larchmont.

When the project was placed before the Lions, it received immediate support, and the young men were helped in getting started. They have connections with various organizations for the blind, and carry in stock such articles as rugs, door-mats, brooms, brushes, mops, towels, aprons, foot-stools, hearth brooms and various kinds of baskets. There are also toys for children, such as games, bean bags, stuffed animals and a wide assortment of dolls. Started last summer, this shop did an excellent Christmas business.

An older blind man is Jim Parker, who has lived in Larchmont for thirty years, and whose blindness dates back twelve years. When the Lions found him, he was without occupation, and like a wild bird in a cage. One day Fred A. Smith, of the Lions, took him to a luncheon of that organization, and Mr. Parker was asked how he would like to go into business.

"What kind of business?" he asked—it seemed like a dream.

He was told that he could operate a cigar, cigarette and candy stand, and that the Lions would help him get started, and teach him how to run it.

The New York State Commission for the Blind was asked if it would allow

Blind Jim Parker to have a cigar stand located in New Rochelle, and permission was granted. Then permission was secured for locating the stand, which is a small portable building, on a vacant lot adjoining the Larchmont Postoffice, a good place for this type of business.

Since the Lions moved the stand, and put Jim Parker in it, he has been on the job from eight in the morning to ninety-three at night, every day, including Sundays, for two years. The organization fitted his place of business with signs and an awning, installed a radio for him, and once a year paints and repairs the place, so that it is always neat and attractive to customers.

A Lesson of Bravery

In a summary of the Braille Institute of America's activities, made from "Light," the "Sun," of Long Beach, California, recently said:

"The Braille Institute publication is inspiring as well as instructive, in its enumeration of activities and newly-found opportunities for the blind, and in its depiction of their philosophy and spirit. There is a lesson here for many hundreds of thousands who are not living in the darkness of a terrific handicap of sightlessness, a lesson of bravery, appreciation of opportunity, refusal to admit defeat, and determination to progress."

Blind Girls Play Bridge

An honest game with marked cards is played by a club of thirteen blind girls who meet at the Lighthouse, in New York. The thirteenth is a substitute to fill in the three tables should a member be absent. The cards are marked in Braille, and held between the fingers, not fan-wise, so the marks can be felt. While scores are kept on a Braille slate, the players seldom refer to them, because they remember too well to make the foolish plays of many sighted bridge fiends, and their minds are too well trained in concentration to allow common mistakes.

They are devoted to contract bridge, and frequently give a party for sighted players. As with sighted people, their pastimes change—at one period they were absorbed in crossword puzzles, then chess was played on a board with depressed squares, and at other times they have been all a-flutter over chess or pinochle.



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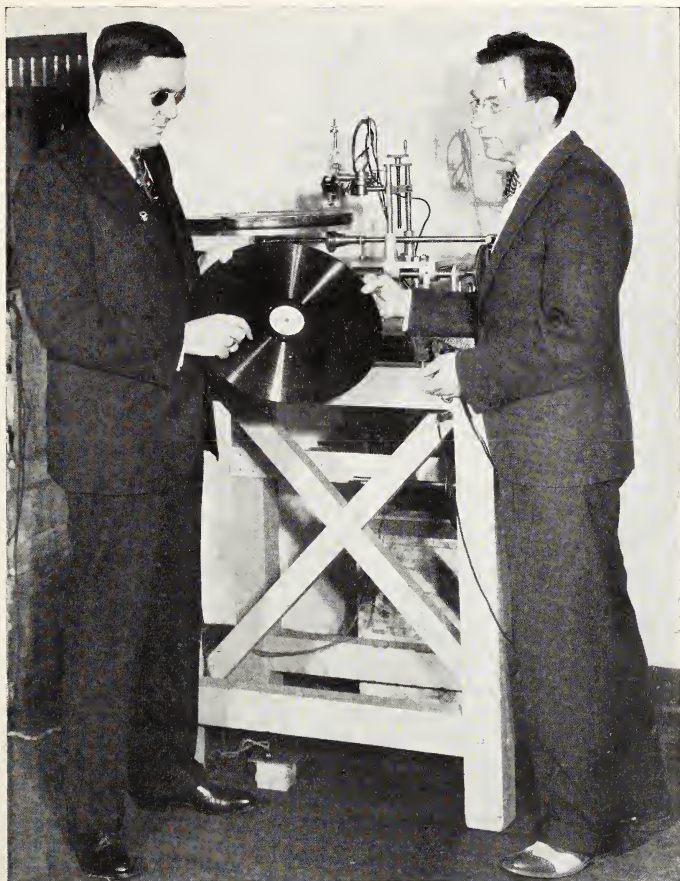
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Released on the 1st and 15th of the month, respectively, and containing articles on travel and exploration, science and invention, and the latest flashes of world-wide news, a semi-monthly news service is thereby furnished to the blind. Thousands of the blind would like to have these unparalleled, high-standard magazines. Comparatively few can afford to subscribe even at the rates which are below the publishing cost.

A subscription for LIGHT at \$3 a year pays also for one of these Braille monthlies which will be sent free to a blind reader unable to subscribe. Let your light shine in that darkness by subscribing *now*.

LIGHT



The entire New Testament can be put on about five of these new "talking book" records. Edward R. Harris (right) showing his three-hour disc to J. Robert Atkinson. See Page 6.

—Braille Institute photo.

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A team of blind gardeners working for a prize (left). Mrs. Adolphus Duncombe, English founder of the guild for blind gardeners, herself blinded (center). An English blind gardener who lives in Rudyard Kipling's country (right). See Page 4.

—Photos courtesy National Institute for the Blind (England)

Contents for May-July, 1933

The Lost Vein	3
Gardening for the Blind—Why Not? by James H. Collins	4
A Greatly-Improved "Talking Book," by The Editor	6
"Bill" Howard Tunes Pianos—Plus, by Charles J. Jefferson	8
Always a Braille Bible Famine	10
300 Years Without a Dictionary!	12
A Real Country of the Blind	14
Two Magazines That Are Not Thin	15
Seen With Half An Eye	15
The First Braille Nature Trail	16

Activities of the Braille Institute of America

Sponsorship of BOOKS and MAGAZINES, published in Braille, for the use of the blind, on a non-profit basis and free to the blind unable to pay.

Free HOME TEACHING of the blind in the mastery of the Braille system.

Maintenance of a FREE LENDING REFERENCE LIBRARY, being stocked with business journals, guides and numerous books on all vocations, trades and professions, followed by the blind, including works on the principles of insurance, commercial law, real estate, business ethics, social and political economy, salesmanship, journalism, and many other subjects.

BUREAU of BETTER BUSINESS for the BLIND to assist blind adults in choosing a trade, profession or business suitable to their talents.

SCHOLARSHIPS for vocational and higher education in branches of the trades and professions found practical for the blind, such scholarship to provide readers also when necessary.

BUSINESS FINANCE to finance the blind business men and women by way of loans under supervision of the Braille Institute Trustees, until they are permanently and successfully established.

To engage in all other HUMANITARIAN efforts incidental to the social, industrial, professional and literary welfare of the blind not being covered by other agencies, public or private.

Our Magazines: "LIGHT"—a success magazine of the blind; the "BRAILLE MIRROR" and "MARCH OF EVENTS", Braille monthlies for the blind, with semi-monthly news service.

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LIGHT

To further acquaint sighted people with the ambitions and success of the blind, and enlist aid in meeting their problem of securing good reading matter.

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\$3 a year—every subscription turned into a free subscription for a Braille magazine to a needy blind reader

James H. Collins, Editor

J. Robert Atkinson, Associate Editor

Jerry M. Nesbitt, Business Manager

VOL. 5

MAY-JULY, 1933

NO. 3

The Lost Vein

By JAMES H. COLLINS

ONCE, a magnificent vein of coal was discovered in an Eastern valley. The size of the vein, the quality of the coal, handiness to markets and transportation, made it possible to install thoroughly modern equipment, of capacity to mine such a vein for years to come.

And then, suddenly, after the plant had been built, and miners had gone to work, the great vein came abruptly to an end, a few hundred feet in the mountainside. Somehow, it had been cut off, in past ages, perhaps by a glacier. Only the portal was left. The rest had been ground up in the mills of the gods.

* * *

Our educational system for the blind is much like that sheared-off vein of coal. Through taxes, we provide for the blind, and maintain schools, where they are taught to read, write and cipher, to play musical instruments, and work at various trades.

Then, school days come to an end, and life for the blind graduates pinches off in a barren mountainside. They have been equipped with schooling that should enable them to tackle the world, and build careers, or at least earn a respectable

living. But there ends the effort of society to help them make their adjustment to the world.

* * *

Whose fault?

Your fault, my fault, his fault and her's—nobody's. The teachers in schools for the blind do their best, and taxpayers have generally been liberal with funds.

But there are only about 110,000 blind persons in the United States, and like the 150,000 prisoners in penal institutions, we find their number too small for contact.

We seldom or never see them. We have more interesting human problems to worry about! We pass a law, make an appropriation, and forget, and the vein of life, for them, pinches off shortly after it starts.

It is chiefly where the vein pinches off that the Braille Institute of America finds its work, helping the blind get started in the world, and the blinded get started all over again.

During the past few months we have heard a good deal about a new technological world, in which everybody will work three hours a day and have everything. Let us hope that the blind are figured in as human beings.

Meanwhile, we carry on in the only world we have!

Gardening for the Blind...Why Not?

In England, the Blind Have Been Doing it
Since the War, and Here's How It's Done

By JAMES H. COLLINS

IN England, where work for the war-blinded has led to many new experiments, gardening for the blind has become a regular thing, with teachers, and even a guild of blind gardeners.

And why not?

This kind of work is well within the abilities of blind men and women, and especially blind children. It takes them outdoors, and gives them a kind of exercise and pleasure all too rare in the lives of blind persons, who are in danger of being too much shut in.

A leader in the English movement for gardening by the blind is J. Ernest Sutcliffe, a botanist who lost his sight, and who persisted in applying his knowledge of plants after his handicap. As a result, he has a large garden, and besides the pleasure of looking after growing things, he has occasional adventures.

"On one occasion, while working in my garden," he says, "I had wandered far from the house. Colliding with a tree, I was deflected from my course, and 'lost.' Walking aimlessly about in search of a landmark to guide me, I was delighted to hear the emptying of bath water from the house, which enabled me to find a familiar pathway.

"Another time, while digging close to a hedge late at night, I felt rather than heard a presence near me, and upon stopping to listen, was startled by a loud snort and a shower of spray. I dropped my tools and raced toward the house, until I suddenly realized that it was a friendly horse on the other side of the hedge who had taken an interest in my activities. I returned, laughing, when I realized who the 'demon' was."

* * *

While a garden for a blind person requires some adaptation to aid in working, it

need not be greatly different from an ordinary garden, according to practical suggestions given in "Gardening for the Blind," a booklet published by the National Institute for the Blind, London.

The flower and vegetable beds should be narrow, and bounded by a path or fence, to permit easy working, and the blind gardener needs some guide-post to help him keep a straight line in digging. Small posts connected with a stout cord answer the purpose, the digging fork being guided by the cord, which also keeps lines straight in planting.

Stones of irregular shape, placed about the paths and beds, are soon learned as guides. The blind gardener quickly locates every tree, shrub and other landmark, and distinguishes plants by their shape, texture and odor, so that a garden of this kind need not look at all different to the sighted person who might step into it, unaware that it was the creation of a person compelled to work entirely by touch, smell and hearing.

As there is no loss without some gain, so the blind gardener has certain advantages. After dark, he can keep right on working. And his enjoyment of



An English botanist who lost his sight, Ernest Sutcliffe keeps right on gardening.

—Photo courtesy National Institute for the Blind (England)

garden scents, sounds and silences is apt to be keener than that of the sighted person.

Whatever the flowers, vegetables and fruits grown in the neighborhood, those are the ones to be chosen for a blind person's garden. Training consists in learning to plant and tend them, to handle tools, and to distinguish by touch between plants and weeds, so the garden may be well tilled. And in the latter problem, some of the weeds help the blind gardener—he knows whenever he touches a thistle or a stinging nettle!

In watering the garden, says Mr. Sutcliffe, the blind gardener is guided very largely by sound!

Using a hose, and knowing the position of every tree or fixture, the water is directed by the sounds that come back. A garden hose is also full of adventure for a blind person, because it will kink, and play dead, and send him investigating, only to receive a burst of pent-up water in his face, or down his neck, as he locates the trouble. "The Puck of garden appliances" this English gardener calls it.

It is not advisable for the blind gardener to plant the whole seed catalogue, as sighted cultivators are tempted to do. On the contrary, his results will be better if he narrows down to two or three varieties of flowers or vegetables, at least for a beginning. This enables him to thoroughly know his plants, and to detect weeds.

In England, the lavender bush is an ideal blind person's plant, because every stage in its growth can be attended to by the sightless. It is large, and heavy-scented. The bees report on its flowering, and tell when it is ready to cut for drying. Moreover, dried lavender has a market, and is a good money crop for blind gardeners in England.

Among other plants recommended from English experience are violets, statice, physalis, honesty, and other flowers, and most of the vegetables. Transplanting is one of the most difficult things to learn, but many plants do not require it, as beans, peas, beets, potatoes and radishes, which grow to maturity where the seed is sown.

There is another advantage in limiting the blind gardener's crop to a few plants, for then he may become a specialist and an exhibitor—in one English locality bulb exhibitions are held annually by blind gardeners.

An observant sighted person might

learn new things about Nature by joining a class of blind children who are being taught gardening by methods explained in the English booklet.

Teaching begins by cultivating the sense of touch, says Miss Ada Byron, an experienced instructor, and children are encouraged to identify and describe plants by their leaves, which they class as hairy, smooth, strong-veined, and so on. The difference in the "feel" of vegetable leaves is very great, the peas and beans having soft leaves in pairs opposite each other, the carrots feathery tops, the cabbage thick fleshy leaves, onions their spiky tops and odor.

The delight of blind children in gathering peas or beans can be appreciated when it comes after they have performed all the operations of preparing the soil, sowing, cultivating, watering and weeding. As touch has guided all the previous steps, so it tells them when to pick the filled-out pods.

The English movement was started by Mrs. Adolphus Duncombe, a woman lover of gardens who in later years became blind. At a Congress for the blind, in 1919 she read a paper based on her own experience in continuing her own gardening after her handicap. She had found it possible to sow seed, make cuttings, prune plants and fruit trees, and was determined to continue such work as long as her strength lasted, to keep from idleness and despondency.

Her paper led to a guild being organized to encourage gardening among the blind. At first, there was considerable skepticism, but now the idea is not only accepted as highly practicable, but some blind children are even being led to cultivate natural tastes for work among plants, and train themselves for horticultural occupations, to earn a livelihood.

The idea is gradually spreading to other countries, being taken up chiefly, at present, by blind individuals who hear of the possibilities, and read the printed material about English gardening. Canada and Sweden report blind gardeners, and also Japan and Ethiopia. Gardening hints in Braille have been published in England. The ultimate goal is teaching garden work as part of the instruction of blind children.

The Braille Institute of America has a limited number of copies of the English booklet "Gardening for the Blind," and will be glad to send them to interested readers.

A Greatly-Improved "Talking Book"

Using New Principles, a Los Angeles Inventor
Records Three Hours Talk on One Phonograph Disc

By THE EDITOR

THREE hours of reading—or being read to, rather—on a phonograph record! Played on an ordinary phonograph, and costing no more than an ordinary record!

This is the "talking book" for the blind, as it has now been developed in Los Angeles. The invention has been investigated by the Trustees of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., and steps are being taken to put it into production. With the rising tide of business will come real talking books for the blind of America, another much-needed aid in their education and entertainment.

This invention has a touch of sentiment.

For, out of his acquaintance with a blind girl, and later with other blind people, an expert in sound recording was led to study the needs of the blind, and perfect a "talking book" which would be really adapted to their needs, and not merely a modified phonograph record. Thus far, the only "talking books" for the blind have been short-playing records of standard entertainment type, which require too many discs, and cost too much, to be really serviceable to the blind.

"While I was attending the Toronto Technical College," says Edward R. Harris, the inventor, "I became acquainted with a blind girl whose sweet disposition and lovely character impressed me very deeply. For several years we were companions, and it is

largely due to her influence that, in later years, I carried on the necessary research work for my talking book. It has been my good fortune to number among my close friends several splendid persons who were blind, and from them I received an insight into their needs that I could get in no other way."

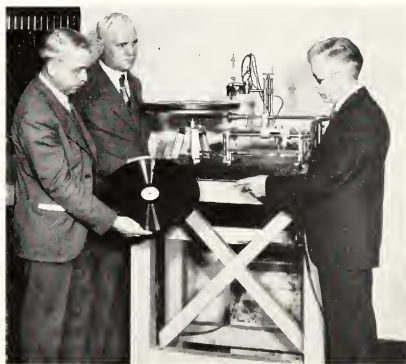
Mr. Harris was born in London, England, but educated in Canada, and has had many years of sound recording experience, as an executive with such organizations as the Canadian Research Laboratories, Emerson Phonograph Company, Talking Book Laboratory, A. C. Gilbert Company, and he is now president of the Harris Recording Laboratories, Los Angeles.

* * *

"The problem is much more involved than it appears at first sight," he added. "It seems a simple matter to make a phonograph record that will read to the listener instead of play music but I soon found serious obstacles to the use of ordinary phonograph records. The big difficulty is the limit on time.

"For example, a feature talking picture with film sound record has a sound track over one mile long. And a wax phonograph record has much greater length of sound track in proportion to the playing time.

"For years, I have wrestled with the problem, and found it necessary to reconstruct the entire technique of sound recording. But I can now



Real "talking books" are coming with the "New Deal." Trustees of the Braille Institute examining the first "Readophone" record in the laboratory of Edward R. Harris, sound engineer.

—Braille Institute photo

make records that talk, play or sing an excellent quality of music or speech for two and a half hours, using both sides of a sixteen-inch disc. This time can be extended to three hours.

"To my knowledge, others have been able to get less than half that amount of sound track on a disc, and this is done only by crowding the lines very close together, which sacrifices tone and quality. Several new principles are used to make this possible in my invention, the chief of which is maintaining a continuous sound track speed at all parts of the record, where on the ordinary phonograph the speeds vary, because the disc is run a certain number of revolutions per minute, and increases in actual sound track speed as the center is approached. By both mechanical and electrical control of speed, more sound trackage is put on the disc."

* * *

The place of the "talking book" in the education and daily life of the blind will be very definite, once it has been made available.

Contrary to popular belief, the "talking book" will not entirely displace Braille or other embossed books. For much of the reading of the blind, like that of sighted persons, will still be of a kind that demands a text which can be examined by sentence and page, and referred to, and compared, for study purposes. For this, embossed books will always be needed.

But the "talking book" is ideal for elderly blind persons, who have lost sight late in life, and find re-education difficult. And it offers another way to enjoy the world's masterpieces of literature, as well as current literature. The real need and desire of blind people is for scientific and general information, rather than entertainment, and the "talking book" makes it possible to impart this in a way that amounts to personal instruction.

In the "talking book," it would be possible to record stories with sounds that create atmosphere or dramatize the action, but at the outset, with the need for "talking books" so great, many standard books could be transferred to disc by a good reader.

At an average reading speed of 200 words per minute about 35,000 words could be read onto a record running three hours. The New Testament contains 181,253 words, and so could be reproduced in five or six records. An old-

fashioned "three-decker" novel like Dickens's "Old Curiosity Shop" contains about 225,000 words, and could be reduced to about seven records. The average current novel runs from 70,000 to 100,000 words, and could be reduced to two or three records.

Questions of cost are most important. Braille books must always be expensive, on account of the small editions that meet the needs of the limited blind audience, and the cost of making printing plates. Against a price of \$10 for a standard history like Parkman's "Pioneers of France in the New World," in Braille, the "talking book" edition of that book, which contains about 135,000 words, might be sold for less than half as much, on four records, because the expense of making the master record would be much less than that for printing plates.

The blind person obtaining such records would play them on a special phonograph, equipped to run the disc under the conditions demanded by Mr. Harris's continuous-speed sound track, but this special "readophone," as the inventor calls it, would be similar to the standard portable phonograph, and could be supplied at a very moderate price—perhaps as little as \$10 to \$15 for an individual machine to be used in the home.

With "talking books," it will be possible to simplify and improve much teaching to the blind, both children and adults. Already, the dictating machine has been adapted to teaching, and with very good results, and much saving in time, but with limitations imposed by the shortness of the records. "Talking books" for the blind will enable many blind persons to own larger personal collections of books, and the "talking books" will, of course, be kept in circulating libraries for the blind. In fact, part of the Congressional appropriation for printing books for the blind has now been set aside for "talking books."

THE OLD MILL

By HELEN MAY MARTIN
(Blind and Deaf)

No longer sounds the wheel of the old mill,
A relic of past days standing below the hill,
In quiet through all the years to dream,
Beside the tumbling, rippling, crystal stream.

I long to know the stories that you could tell,
Of pioneer times, and of flower bestrewn dell,
Of dusky forests, and glorious sunrise—
A world that was once the Red Man's paradise.

"Bill" Howard Tunes Pianos... Plus

For More than 40 Years, in One Factory,
He Has Helped them Reveal Their Souls

By CHARLES J. JEFFERSON

SUPPOSE "Bill" Howard had been born in a foreign land, and turned up at Ellis Island. **Heraus** for him!

Suppose he had not been born yet, but was to come on the scene a generation hence, when snopocracy has a tighter hold on human destinies. A cage for him, or the gas chamber!

For "Bill" Howard was practically born blind, and added to his misdemeanors by marrying the girl of his choice, a blind wife.

Fortunately, he took care to be born in the good old U. S. A., and before old-fashioned American individualism had come under suspicion and for better or worse he was allowed to make his way, and here is what he made of himself:

He is the father of five daughters, all normal in sight, now married, two of whom had college education, and the others going through high school.

Starting as a piano-tuner, to utilize the musical gifts that he discovered during his days at the Illinois Institute for the Blind, he has made a place for himself with a piano company, as an expert in piano tone. He plays the piano, pipe organ, violin, clarinet and oboe with equal facility. And he has an orchestra conductor's intimate acquaintance with the works of Beethoven, Chopin, Grieg and Schubert.

On top of this, a fine mechanical ability, so that he can build a pipe organ, "voice" a piano, and regulate the instrument if its tone requires technical adjustments.

And at sixty-eight he still holds the job he took forty years ago.

* * *

William M. Howard was a country boy, born on a farm in Illinois near the small Rock River town of Oregon, and through neglected sore eyes, lost his sight when he was between

three and four months old. Sent to the state school for the blind, he received a grammar and high school education, and a thorough course in music, including harmony, counterpoint, the playing of several instruments, and last, for bread-and-butter purposes, the trade of tuning.

Also, at this institution, he met a blind girl whom he married, and opened a music store in his home town of Oregon, where they went to live.

The telephone was coming out into the Illinois country towns in those days, and his mechanical and business knowledge led him to take charge of a telephone exchange, where he had to keep track of the calls, and also maintain twelve miles of the old "grounded" lines of that day, before the present circuits were employed.

Later, he took charge of a run-down independent telephone enterprise, and for four and a half years did about everything needed in its operation, except the book-keeping, and continued his piano tuning too. Once, he overhauled and corrected a new switchboard that was not working right. Finally the plant was built up to 400 subscribers, and then sold in one of the mergers of that day.



For more than forty years, "Bill" Howard has held the same job, in a piano factory, helping pianos find their true voices.

The town of Oregon had a piano factory, which was not doing very well. Just before the hard times of 1893 began, this factory was taken over by a more successful manufacturer, who rebuilt and reorganized it, and established an industry that is still successful, under the management of his son.

This manufacturer, Frederick G. Jones, knew and liked "Bill" Howard, the blind tuner, and offered him a job in the reconstructed factory. And thus began a service of more than forty years. Edgar B. Jones, the present head of the business, states that not a piano leaves the plant until it has been passed by Howard, and that he regards him as one of the most valuable men in the organization. The company makes the "Schiller" piano.

At first, Howard did all the tuning alone, and had he been content to stick at that work, might have been one of the tuning staff which later became necessary, as the output grew under good management.

But he was not satisfied to remain just a tuner. Having tuned at least one of every make of piano before he entered the factory, and tuned hundreds of new pianos, he began to delve into the technical side of piano tone. With his sensitive fingers, and his inquiring and classifying brain, he felt and thought his way to the heart of the piano, and the construction that makes tone pleasing or otherwise.

The real foundation of piano tone, experts say, is in the technical operation of "chipping a block." Howard is probably the only blind man in the world who can properly perform this work. The tuner must begin where the chipper leaves off, while the strings are loose, and establish the pitch of that particular piano, and mold its "temperament." Regardless of what you may have heard about pianos being turned out all alike, in this mechanistic age, they have individualities, and it is the man who performs this operation who creates an instrument that is good to live with, after you have become acquainted with its tonal personality. Such a man is more than a tuner, and in the piano trade they call him the "voicer."

Since "Bill" Howard first went to work for the elder Jones, the factory has turned out more than 75,000 instruments, every one of which has passed under his observation. He has charge of the tuning department, and outside of the factory has probably tuned 175,000 more pianos.

A story is told of Howard's acute senses and observation.

One day, while he was working on a piano, he noticed an odor of burning wood. It was very faint, and when the attention of other factory men was called to it, they sniffed in vain.

"Bill, you must be imagining things," said one.

But the blind man would not let the thing drop. Quietly, he began moving about, to locate the source of the odor by smell. Presently he tapped a spot in the floor.

"Something is burning right in there!" he insisted, and just then the "Boss" came along. To satisfy themselves, they pried up one of the floor boards, and a wisp of smoke curled up. A fire had started beneath the floor, in some way, and had it gone undetected, might have burst into flame when nobody was in the plant, and done great damage before it could be brought under control.

Howard is a modest fellow, and because he has always been blind, does not regard it as a handicap, or feel that he has accomplished anything extraordinary.

His mechanical gift has furnished occupation for his hands, and his musical talent, with a love for good books, of which he is a great reader, have amply furnished his mental world, and made it a place in which to live that is probably much richer than the mental world of many a sighted person.

New Books for the Blind

(Printed on the presses of the Braille Institute of America, Inc.)

Prices quoted are always much below the full publishing cost and they do not include expressage.

The Romance of Dollard, by Mary Hartwell Catherwood, 1 vol., selling price \$3.25.

The Adventures of Francois, by S. Weir Mitchell, 2 vols., selling price \$5.65.

The Red Badge of Courage, by Stephen Crane, 1 vol., selling price \$3.25.

Life and Labor in the Old South, by Ulrich B. Phillips, 3 vols., selling price \$9.00.

The Layman's Legal Guide, by Francis W. Marshall, 5 vols., selling price \$13.50.

The Road to the Law, by Dudley Cammett Lunt, 2 vols., selling price \$6.00.

It is argued that blindness makes other senses keener—and it is also maintained that other senses become less keen when vision departs. The truth is, that more scientific observation will be needed to establish the facts on this vital point.

Always a Braille Bible Famine

Depression Has Piled Up a Long Waiting List
of Blind Readers Who Want the Good Book

THE world's best seller" is the blind's best companion and friend.

Despite the fact that the Bible was the first book to be printed for the blind, between 1835 and 1844, and although agencies in the English-reading nations have for years been as active as possible in supplying the Scriptures to the blind, in some form or another, there is still a Bible famine among those who read the Braille system, according to John W. Tapley, secretary of the Braille Bible Society, Inc., of Los Angeles. The Society is engaged exclusively in the work of supplying Bibles to the blind, free, or at prices they are able to pay below the production cost.

"For some years, we have marketed the Braille Bible to the blind, and to libraries and institutions for the blind, at the special price of \$1 a volume, or \$21 for the Bible complete," says Mr. Tapley. "But, owing to the limited purchasing power of the blind themselves, and to limited appropriations of institutions engaged in literary service to the blind, whose budgets, in recent years have been cut, and then cut again and again, the Braille Bible Society supplies more Bibles free than it sells at the special price of \$1 a volume, and at the present time we, as a Society, are not able to supply the demand."

Due to economic conditions which have affected seriously its resources, dependent entirely upon the voluntary support of the public, the Society must now curtail its activities to the disappointment of many blind. As a result, it now has a long waiting list tabled for better times. On this list are blind readers living in widely separated districts, in this country and foreign lands. Until recently, the Society has been filling requests from stock on hand, irrespective of funds in the treasury. But now, its stock is depleted largely through distribution that has not returned any revenue with which to replenish it, and until funds are forthcoming from the public, Mr. Tapley indicated that requests for 1773 volumes of the Scriptures in Braille must be tabled.

Contributions for this purpose are

therefore very much needed at this time, and will be greatly appreciated. They should be addressed to Braille Bible Society, Inc., 739 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles.

Free Circulating Library for the Blind

Books and magazines of every description are now available to the blind through the new circulating library just established by the Braille Institute of America, 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles. Applications are accepted at the Institute, through the mail or by telephone, and no fee is charged.

Braille readers residing anywhere in the nation and particularly west of the Mississippi River are eligible for enrollment as borrowers from the Braille Institute Library; but for economy's sake blind readers are expected to borrow books from the libraries nearest to them when such libraries can supply the literature desired in a reasonable length of time. There are nineteen such libraries in the United States, located at strategic points.

Fiction, biography, history, science, religion and poetry, as well as the following current monthly magazines comprise the new free lending library: "Book Review;" "Progress;" "Umschau;" "International Braille Magazine;" "The Braille Courier;" "The Texas Meteor;" "The Weekly News;" "The Herald of Christian Science;" "Christian Science Bible Lessons;" "The Outlook for the Blind;" "Teachers Forum;" "Musical Review;" "The Lamp;" "The Lutheran Messenger;" "The Minnesotan;" "The John Milton Magazine;" "The Braille Mirror" and "March of Events."

Many blind persons in Europe are interested in Esperanto, the world language, as a means of increasing their contacts, and a Braille magazine, "Esperanta Ligilo," is published for blind Esperantists.

If ink-print books were published in the small editions of Braille books, they would cost as much.

Popular belief in their helplessness is the heaviest handicap of the sightless.

Our Own Who's Who

A humanitarian interest in benevolent undertakings has been a strong motive in the life of Frank C. Collier. He is President of the Midnight Mission in Los Angeles, and was elected a Trustee of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., at the annual meeting in March, 1933.



Frank C. Collier

Judge Collier has maintained an active interest in the Braille work almost since its inception. He has given freely of his time in this connection and his constructive support has been an inspiration to all. The Braille Institute of America and its beneficiaries may well congratulate themselves upon securing the

services of Judge Collier as a member of its governing board.

He was born in Central City, Colorado, and educated in the public schools of San Diego, California, moving to that city with his family in 1883. In 1901 he graduated from the University of Michigan with the degree of LL.B.

Judge Collier was admitted to the California Bar in 1901, taking up the practice of law in San Diego at that time. With the exception of one year in Prescott, Arizona, he has practiced continuously in California, moving to Los Angeles in 1903. In 1924 he was appointed to the Superior Court, which place he still occupies.

The Blind at School

Blindness is more than mere absence of sight. It completely changes the entire mental life, so that blind or blinded persons must take a different attitude toward the world.

And the world should take a different attitude toward them, especially in the matter of education. Such is the contention of Thomas D. Cutsworth, in his book "The Blind in School and Society" (New York, D. Appleton & Company, \$2.50).

Mr. Cutsworth lost his sight when eleven years old, and after attending the

Oregon State School for the Blind, took a master's degree in the social sciences at the University of Oregon. In Boston, he has carried on research in the personality problems of the blind, and at present he is an instructor in psychology at the University of Kansas.

He maintains that nobody has yet adequately understood how to educate the blind, because the seeing child is taken for a model, and efforts are made to instruct the blind child in the life of the sighted world, whereas the blind child lives in a world of his own, and should be helped to adjust himself to that world smoothly, harmoniously and efficiently. With considerable psychological technique, Mr. Cutsworth shows the different departments of the blind child's world, and its problems, and makes suggestions for adjustment during the years of school and college.

Are You Feeling Blue?

(From a radio talk by the "Richfield Reporter")

Are you feeling blue, a real dark, dirty blue? Well, just close your eyes,—close 'em tight, now,—and listen to this:

Howard Alonzo Dent, Junior is putting himself through the law school at the University of Washington, despite the fact that he is blind. He wrestles,—he is a mighty good wrestler, too. Until Tuesday night, he was the heavy-weight champion of the University. After a fierce tussle, he lost out in the finals of the intra-mural series. He can tell where his opponent is at all times by the sound of his breathing.

Another thing about the sightless youth,—he shoots. Young Howard Dent can hit the target as often as the average man if someone throws a rock at it just before he is ready to pull the trigger. He "sights" by sound.

The young man rides horseback, too, letting his companion on a horse make the trail he follows. He goes to dances,—is popular among the students and faculty,—plays the piano and saxophone. In the high school of his home town of Edmonds, near Seattle, he was a cheer leader.

Last summer, while out canoeing with a girl and boy, the canoe capsized. Neither of the other two could swim. But Dent could, and he saved them both. He is studying to be a judge, and there are many who favor his choice on the general principle that justice should be blind.

Howard Alonzo Dent has mastered the art of making himself happy under the handicap he has had ever since he lost his eyesight at the age of seven. HE thinks there isn't anything really worth worrying about.

Friends, I asked you to close your eyes a minute or so ago, for a very definite reason. If you have opened them, now be honest with yourselves and admit that things look pretty bright, after all.

300 Years Without a Dictionary

For Three Centuries Educational Work for
the Blind Has Gone on Without this Book

PRODUCTION of any good dictionary at the reasonable price you propose would certainly be a boon to Braille readers," writes the secretary of one of the largest European institutions for the blind.

The publication of a dictionary in Braille is just one of the objectives in the Braille Institute's "Five Year One Million Dollar Endowment and Expansion Program" in behalf of the advancement of the blind.

Educational work for the blind has been promoted for three hundred years. Printing for the blind has been a practical science for more than one hundred years. The surprise is that, as yet, no adequate dictionary has ever been printed in Braille. As may be imagined, this is rather a gigantic undertaking, and that is likely the reason why it has not been done. On the other hand, many books which form about as many volumes in Braille as the dictionary, have been printed. Why the dictionary has not been, is a question that can be answered only by our educators of the blind.

What the ambitious progressive blind man or woman needs today, not to mention thousands of blind pupils in our tax-supported institutions, is an adequate abridged dictionary in Braille. Such a work will form about 30 volumes, but what of that? The Bible forms 21 volumes. As published in England, the Bible comprises 39 volumes, and one edition 74 volumes. Yet the Bible, or any other book, cannot be read intelligently unless the reader has first, through constant systematic study, some of the knowledge imparted by the dictionary.

Contrary to popular belief, the Braille system is replete with diacritical markings and all the other essentials necessary for the publication of a self-pronouncing dictionary.

Fortunate indeed is the Braille Institute in having enlisted the services of Dr. Frank C. Touton, eminent educator and Vice-President of the University of Southern California, to aid in this work. Mr. Edward D. Burbank, who has had many years of experience in editorial

work during his thirty years with Ginn & Company, is also giving his services gratuitously, following the policy of the Institute of "work for service and not for profit." The stage is all set. All that is now lacking to start work on this project is adequate funds.

The Braille Institute's "Five Year One Million Dollar Endowment and Expansion Program" has encountered many obstacles, due no doubt to the economic conditions which have taxed the resources of philanthropy to the limit. But the Institute's Trustees regard this as no cause for discouragement. Although two years of the "Five Year Plan" have passed with little or no tangible proof of its accomplishment, their goal is ever before them while they cheerfully wait for better times.

For Advancement

The Trustees of the Braille Institute of America announce the receipt of a generous bequest from the estate of Mamie Fricke, William F. Lindner, executor, to be used for the advancement of the blind.

The sum received will help materially in furthering the aims of the Institute, which include:

(1) Instruction to the adult blind in reading and writing Braille, and ordinary typing; (2) Supplying free subscriptions for Braille periodicals to blind readers unable to pay for them; (3) Printing of good books in Braille and furnishing them free to the blind through the various libraries; and (4) Aiding blind men and women to become self-supporting.

Kyle Z. Grainger acted as attorney for the executor.

One of the modern things greatly enjoyed by the blind is historical pageantry, and a very successful historical pageant, with floats, was designed for the old town of Hadley, Massachusetts, by Clarence Hawkes, a blind man.

Blind men, dressed like clowns, and making efforts to play musical instruments, were considered a funny show in France, in 1771—but that show led to the first efforts to help the blind with education, made by Valentin Haüy.

Our Two Braille Monthlies on World Display

Guests at the Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago can see on display our two Braille monthly magazines "March of Events," and "The Braille Mirror," and those who read Braille may also have the privilege of reading these magazines in a delightful setting, surrounded by literature and culture, luxury and restful environment.

For this courtesy, the Braille Institute of America is indebted to Time, Incorporated, New York and Chicago, publishers of the magazines "Time" and "Fortune."

The Time Pavilion is located at the very hub of the Exposition activities, immediately adjacent to the already famous Hall of Science and directly opposite the General Exhibits Building. It is well removed from the hurly-burly of the Midway Amusement Zone and at the very heart of the cultural, educational and scientific display center, which will dominate the Fair.

Somewhat unique in that it will take the form of a Magazine Library, the Time Building is comfortably furnished, air-

cooled and pleasantly quiet, in direct contrast to the kaleidoscopic whirl and furious action of the average exhibit.

Terraces fronting on the Lagoon, and overlooking the Board Walk will provide seating capacity for those who wish to rest and view the passing show, and will be furnished in country-club fashion—colorful Lido Beach umbrellas, lighted at night, flower-boxes, etc.

The interior of the building will center around a huge Magazine Rack, upon which will be displayed the finest magazines and periodicals published in this country and abroad.

Heavily upholstered easy chairs, thickly carpeted floors, washed and cooled air should make this a most attractive spot for the worn and tired visitor who has attempted to cover the World's Fair on one of Chicago's typical August days.

Here the visitor may rest and take his ease, and here he will find a great International Display of Magazines, such as has never before been assembled. He may read them or idly thumb them and there will be attendants to answer questions.



Conservation of Eyesight is Our Special Field

Our eye-examination methods follow modern Optometric procedure—always without the annoyance of drops. For extremely weak-sighted eyes:—Examinations for the fitting of telescopic spectacles by appointment.

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A Real "Country of the Blind"

Science Now Hopes to Conquer the Insect
Responsible for Mexico's "Blind Village"

DID H. G. WELLS know that there is actually a "Country of the Blind" when he wrote his tale under the title, years ago, in his short story days? In his "Country of the Blind," no sighted person had been known for generations, and all traditions of seeing had been lost.

But there is a real "Country of the Blind" in Mexico, in the mountain village of Tiltepec, in the State of Oaxaca, and like the fabulous blind valley of Mr. Wells's tale, it is hidden away so that only a few horse trails connect it with the outside world, and it knows few strangers.

John Hix recently told the story of this village in his "Strange as it Seems" newspaper feature, and supplies the following facts:

The universal malady of Tiltepec's 900 inhabitants is total or partial blindness, caused by an insect. The children are not born blind, but are victims of a mosquito-like insect that breeds in the swift mountain streams of that region, causing a malady known medically as "Onchocercosis," which causes babies to be stricken with blindness before they grow up.

This situation was brought to light by Dr. Ramon Pardo, a Mexican scientist who visited the village, and facts were brought to the United States by Dr. Miguel Bustamante, Mexican delegate to the second Pan-American Conference of Directors of Health. Tests have established the connection of the insect with the people's malady, and now hope is held out that it may be eradicated. It is estimated that there are 20,000 cases in Mexico, and when the disease does not completely blind the victim, it causes such sensitiveness to light that people afflicted with it cannot stand the sun.

The people of Tiltepec do not speak Spanish, but an old Indian language, from before the days of the Conquistadores, called Zapotec, a language complete in itself, and so Dr. Pardo had difficulty in establishing contact with them. They live in crude huts. There is not a school, church, store or public building in the village. They grow a little corn, and have some sheep, and the climate is so mild



Courtesy John Hix
Copyright McClure
Newspaper Syndicate

that very little clothing suffices. Corn furnishes their main food, and wool from their sheep the limited amount of clothing needed. As there is no church, nor any civil law, there are no formal marriages among them, only matings and families.

"It is a weird sensation," says Dr. Bustamante, "to see these folk, creeping from their huts at dusk to hunt their food—berries, corn, a few fruits. But the Mexican Government is working on the problem. Light may yet be brought to Tiltepec."

John Hix has found another place in which blindness is almost universal, the village of Adiyamen, in the District of Hisnimansour, Turkey, where less than 250 of the 7,000 inhabitants are able to see. Here, however, the people are noted for their devoutness, and twice a day thank Allah that their lot is no worse.

Blind Again Entertained

All the blind in Southern California and their guides were invited to be the guests of Braille Institute of America, Inc., at a special performance for the blind held Saturday, May 13th, at the Hollywood Music Box Theatre, Hollywood, California.

This matinee was made possible through the courtesy of George K. Arthur, producer of the nautical comedy feature, "The Middle Watch." Mr. Arthur promises other invitations to the blind in the future.

Two Magazines That Are Not Thin

Our Two Braille Monthlies Come Out Right
on the Dot, for Blind Pals, Times or No Times



WHEN I was a farm kid, back in the days of boyhood, they used to wisecrack about my thinness. "Gosh,

how thin you be, Bub! But never mind—now that fly time's over, you'll put it on agin!"

Have you noticed that the advertising in this magazine "Light" is rather thin? And that it comes out with a little hesitation nowadays, instead of our regular schedule of six issues per year? Well, that's because advertising is scarce, and our advertisers certainly deserve your trade, for sticking to "Light" so loyally, in this 1933 Year of the Big Dip.

All magazines are thin—except two that I know. Those are our two Braille magazines for the blind, and we have never been late with them since business started this sinking spell. Because we know the blind need them more than ever.

Every three dollars I get for a subscription to "Light" pays for a Braille magazine free to a blind pal who needs it. And every good pal who subscribes gets the regular six issues of "Light", no matter how long it takes to publish them.

So, here's thanks, and better times, to all good pals.

Yours gratefully,

The Subscription Man

Seen With Half an Eye

'Twas in a restaurant they met,
One Romeo, one Juliet,
'Twas there he first fell into debt,
For Romeo'd 'what Juliet.

* * *

Husband: "I may be detained at the office till very late tonight—if I am, don't wait up for me."

Experienced wife (firmly): "I won't—I'll go down and get you."

* * *

A lady was entertaining the small son of her friend.

"Are you sure you can cut your meat, Willy?" she asked, after watching him a moment.

"Oh, yessum," he replied, without looking up. "We often have it as tough as this at home."

* * *

"I call her 'Shasta,'"

"Because she's a 'daisy'?"

"No; because she has to have gas, she has to have oil, she has to have air, she has to have something all the time."

* * *

Two cobblers lived in the same village. They were very jealous of each other. One was a bit of a scholar, and proud of it. The other knew nothing but his own trade.

One day the scholar thought it was time he made a bid to get more trade than his rival. So he put up a board, and on it was written in a

good round hand: Mens Sana In Corpore Sano ("A Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body").

But the other fellow was not to be so easily beaten. He, too, put up a board, and on it was written in a wobbly hand: Men's and Women's Sana In Corpore Sano.

* * *

"Have you ever driven a car?" the lady applicant for a license was asked.

"One hundred and twenty thousand miles," put in her husband, "and never had a hand on the wheel."

* * *

An Englishman and an Irishman, riding together, passed a gallows.

"Where would you be," said the Englishman, "if the gallows had its due?"

"Riding alone, I guess," said the Irishman.

* * *

Tombstone Dealer (after several futile suggestions): "How would just a simple 'Gone Home' do for an inscription?"

Widow: "I guess that will be all right. It was always the last place he ever went."

* * *

She was poor but had excellent manners, while her husband was rich but possessed terrible manners. They were guests at a society leader's home, and while cutting his meat it slipped off the plate onto the floor. He started to pick it up, but she kicked him violently, and said in a whisper "Apologize—say something!" His face turned red, then white, and he grinned at the hostess as he said: "Tough meat slides easy!"

The First Braille Nature Trail

An Idea that Came to Naturalists When
Blind Girls Visited a New York Museum

A GROUP of blind women and girls in a natural history museum were such a revelation to the museum people that now the naturalists are going to blaze special Braille trails for such people—and not merely in the museum walls, but in God's great outdoors.

No less a place than Palisades Interstate Park, between New York and New Jersey, is to have the first Braille trail for blind visitors, and it will be marked with Braille characters punched in brass sheets and tacked to trees and other sites along the trail, so that the blind may follow it with ease. Posts set in the path, with cords leading to the Braille markers, will guide them.

Dr. William H. Carr, of the American Museum of Natural History, in New York City, recently told the New York Herald-Tribune how the idea came to him and his associates.

"Our blind guests in the museum, last summer, astonished us by walking about freely, and asking questions.

"On our way to the museum one totally blind young woman quickly learned to identify nine species of tree leaves. She easily remembered facts about each one and later shared her knowledge with the little girls who were in her immediate charge. We discussed trees while walking, and stopped frequently to select leaves for the children. The group paused at the museum door while we summarized the exhibits. At once they wished to handle everything from salamanders to snakes. They were quickly convinced that the amphibians had smooth skins, whereas the reptiles had scales. Delicate touch discovered this instantly.

"We were extremely busy for a while. Snakes were carried about joyfully. Turtles were examined and waved their stumpy legs in futile protest. Salamanders inched across inquisitive, sensitive, outspread palms while rapid fire questions came from every side. Eventually the group quieted and we directed several leaders to the interdependence tables and described the objects. The idea caught instantly and questions arose once more. As

our blind visitors became more interested, so did our interest in them increase."

Dr. Carr said he had found that the blind in examining leaf collections, as soon as the leaves had become dry destroyed the leaves by handling them. He and his assistants now are making plaster casts of familiar American forest leaves to be used as permanent aids in the blind person's study of nature.

"Another reason for our interest in these blind persons," he said "was that their own human dependence upon and response to nature out of doors was so different from ours. Nature is by no means a closed door to them, and we are happy indeed to be permitted to increase their opportunities for further understanding."

The Trailside Museum at Bear Mountain, to which the blind came, was initiated by the American Association of Museums and through a grant of the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial funds were provided for the museum building, which was built under the direction of Major William A. Welch, general manager and chief engineer of the park. The fifty-seven acre area of the nature trails and building was provided by the Commissioner of the Palisades Interstate Park.

Blinded by a Bear

Five years ago, a youth visiting Golden Gate Park, in San Francisco, was terribly clawed by one of the bears on exhibition there, and became completely blind. The story of his brave fight to overcome such a life-blighting handicap is inspiring, and has lately been told by the "Calistogan," Calistoga, California.

"Richard Hays was confined in a hospital for two years," says that newspaper, "and it was while he was in the hospital that he was inspired to enter some profession, feeling that without his sight, it would be necessary. While in the hospital he mastered the Braille system of reading, and also learned to use a typewriter. When he was released from the hospital in October, 1929, he entered the California School for the Blind in Berkeley, from which he graduated in May of last year with honors high enough to secure his entrance in the University of California. There he majored in economics until the beginning of the present semester. Now he is learning to 'see' through the eyes of his German shepherd dog.



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Released on the 1st and 15th of the month, respectively, and containing articles on travel and exploration, science and invention, and the latest flashes of world-wide news, a semi-monthly news service is thereby furnished to the blind. Thousands of the blind would like to have these unparalleled, high-standard magazines. Comparatively few can afford to subscribe even at the rates which are below the publishing cost.

A subscription for LIGHT at \$3 a year pays also for one of these Braille monthlies which will be sent free to a blind reader unable to subscribe. Let your light shine in that darkness by subscribing now.

LIGHT



—Braille Institute photo.

A blind housewife asks us into her home—and there are going to be biscuits for supper.
(See Page 4).

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1933



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"Plenty of New Zealand sunshine!" is the rule at this Institute for the Blind, in Auckland. It is directed by Clutha N. Mackenzie, a New Zealand soldier blinded in the World War.

<i>The</i> BRAILLE ALPHABET		THE BRAILLE CELL	
1	••••••	4	••
2	••••••	5	••
3	••••••	6	••
a	••••••	b	••••••
c	••••••	d	••••••
e	••••••	f	••••••
g	••••••	h	••••••
i	••••••	j	••••••
k	••••••	l	••••••
m	••••••	n	••••••
o	••••••	p	••••••
q	••••••	r	••••••
s	••••••	t	••••••
u	••••••	v	••••••
w	••••••	x	••••••
y	••••••	z	••••••
and	••••••	the	••••••
of	••••••	with	••••••
for	••••••	this	••••••

The Braille "cell" of six dots gives 63 combinations, each of which is used for a character. Besides letters of the alphabet, there are punctuation marks and contractions often-used words.

Braille capital letters are indicated by using the small letter, preceded by the No. 6 dot.

Figures are indicated by the first ten letters of the alphabet, preceded by dots 3, 4, 5 and 6.

As Anglicized, the word is pronounced "brail"—not "brailey."

The Braille Institute of America, Inc., was chartered under the laws of the State of California on the 100th anniversary of the Braille system of printing for the blind, as a memorial to Louis Braille, of Paris, France (1809-1852), that great friend and blind benefactor of the blind, who made it possible for them to write as well as read.

This explains the prominence given to the word Braille in the Institute's name, and the practical omission therefrom of any word which has a direct bearing on welfare work for the blind.

Activities of the Braille Institute of America

Sponsorship of Books and Magazines, published in Braille, for the use of the blind, on a non-profit basis and free to the blind unable to pay.

Free Home Teaching of the blind in the mastery of the Braille system.

Maintenance of a Free Lending Reference Library, being stocked with business journals, guides and numerous books on all vocations,

trades and professions, followed by the blind, including works on the principles of insurance, commercial law, real estate, business ethics, social and political economy, salesmanship, journalism, and many other subjects.

Bureau of Better Business for the Blind to assist blind adults in choosing a trade, profession or business suitable to their talents.

Scholarships for vocational and higher education in branches of the trades and professions found practical for the blind, such scholarship to provide readers also when necessary.

Business Finance to finance the blind business men and women by way of loans under supervision of the Braille Institute Trustees, until they are permanently and successfully established.

To engage in all other Humanitarian efforts incidental to the social, industrial, professional and literary welfare of the blind not being covered by other agencies, public or private.

Our Magazines: "Light"—a success magazine of the blind; the "Braille Mirror" and "March of Events", Braille monthlies for the blind, with semi-monthly news service.

The Braille Institute of America, Inc.

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\$3 a year—every subscription turned into a free subscription for a Braille magazine to a needy blind reader

James H. Collins, Editor

J. Robert Atkinson, Associate Editor

VOL. 5

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER, 1933

NO. 4

A Fount of Knowledge

By JAMES H. COLLINS

JOHNNY was going to a party, and his Mother told him to brush a couple of drops of her brilliantine on his hair, to make it glisten. "But don't waste it," she added, "for that tiny bottle cost a dollar."

Johnny is fourteen, and boy-like, went to the dictionary.

"Gee, Ma! when you want any more of that stuff, buy it from me!" he added, and read the definition: "Brilliantine—A mixture, as of castor-oil and perfume, used to impart a gloss to the hair."

* * *

You can imagine how many questions come every day to a wise fellow like the Editor of the "World Almanac." Recently, that well-informed authority, Robert Hunt Lyman, made a confession to the "American Magazine":

"Ninety-nine out of a hundred questions that come to my desk," he says, "could be answered by the questioners themselves, if they knew how to use the organized knowledge that is at the command of everybody."

"A good unabridged dictionary answers the largest proportion. If

you give a boy a good dictionary, and cultivate in him the habit of using it every time he encounters an unfamiliar word, you have given him the groundwork of a splendid education."

* * *

The blind need many things—good reading matter, and light reading, and association with sighted friends, and occupational training for real work, and real jobs whereby to earn real money.

But one of their greatest present needs is for a good dictionary, of the partly abridged kind, with from 100,000 to 150,000 definitions, which will open up to them this body of organized knowledge recommended for the inquisitive boy. The blind have even more questions to answer than a bright boy, and a good dictionary comes nearer being the ideal fount of knowledge to them, than to the average sighted person.

Therefore, hard times or no hard times, the Braille Institute has never lost sight of its plans for publishing such dictionary in Braille, and by enlisting financial support from philanthropic friends, making it available to the blind at the price they can afford to pay.

A Blind Bride Asks Us In

Just for Better Acquaintance, She Shows
How a Sightless Girl Manages Housekeeping

By JAMES H. COLLINS

BEFORE we ring the doorbell, let's get this thing straight. Understand that we are guests—not sightseers on a rubberneck bus. For little Evelyn Lee is a bride of a few months, and we have been invited to see her home, and study her ways of keeping house, and Evelyn has been blind since a few minutes after birth, when the wrong thing was put into her eyes, or the right thing not put in, or something.

Evelyn is a gentle girl, of twenty-one, and the last person in the world to let her handicap separate her from regular people. But before she was married to blind Cecil Lee, who has been in the printing department of the Braille Institute of America for some time, she worked with him as a proofreader.

In this work, Evelyn learned something about the difficulties of the blind, as regular people, because sighted folks do not know any normal blind people, and get their ideas from blind mendicants. So, if it will help the cause of the blind who are regular folks, through closer acquaintance, Evelyn Lee is glad to have us see her home.

Let us not be too serious about it. You will like the story a friend tells, of how Evelyn was explaining her way of washing clothes.

"I put them to soak over night, with a bleach," she said, "and next morning rub them out until the spots are all off."

"But how do you know when the spots are off?" asked an astonished visitor.

"Well, after all that work," Evelyn answered, light-heartedly, "if the spots aren't off, it's just too bad!"

* * *

If you came into this home while everybody was away, like Goldylocks in the home of the Three Bears, you would see nothing to indicate that it is the home of two young people who have always been sightless. Just a regular home, regular furniture, regular radio, and a regular canary bird, "Bruce," who would greet

you with a regular canary bird "Hello," and ask a lot of bird questions.

Mrs. Lee does all the housekeeping. She cooks, washes dishes and clothes, makes beds, sweeps and dusts—but no, sweeping is one of the few household chores that don't go very well without sight, so she wipes the floors until you might eat from them.

If anything, this is neater housekeeping than you will find in many a sighted woman's home. And for that there is a reason in a home where everything is done by touch, everything must be kept in its proper place—naturally.

Mrs. Lee takes us into her kitchen. It is the convenient Los Angeles kitchen, with lots of built-in cabinets, and a snug breakfast nook, with the table set for two, and plenty of sunshine—in fact, the whole house is sunny, and the blind enjoy that, and the flowers and shrubs and birds around the windows.

For cooking, there is a gas stove, with pilot lights for the burners and oven, and the sightless cook holds her fingers over each burner, as she turns it on, to be sure that the gas has ignited. Between some sighted women, who go rattling ahead, and often suffer a burn, and this blind girl, with her habit of doing everything by touch, the odds against being burned are mostly in favor of the blind housekeeper. An industrial safety expert would praise Evelyn's technique, because it is just about the Davy Crockett technique that he is constantly trying to teach workers in factories: Be sure you're right—and then be sure you're right!

You should see Evelyn thread a needle, to realize that those without eyesight can be just as clever and resourceful as those who go through the world with their eyes. She does it with the sensitive tip of her tongue. The thread is looped, and placed on her tongue, and then the eye of the smallest needle is located, and the thread slipped in—and it isn't a trick needle, either.

"How did you learn that?" we ask, and she says it is one of the things taught

blind children in the Los Angeles public schools.

* * *

As a baby, Evelyn was left in charge of an aunt, and this aunt, who has a knack at teaching, brought her up as nearly like a sighted child as possible.

While Evelyn was still a tiny tad, her aunt taught her how to cook, bake and keep house.

"Now I am going to make biscuits," she would say, to little Evelyn, "and you'd better watch me, so that you will know how to do it."

The flour, and salt and shortening and baking powder and milk would be laid out, and the biscuits mixed and cut, with the little girl following every step, until they were popped into the oven and baked a nice golden brown. Yes, she even learned by sense of smell to know when biscuits were nicely browned. And so with cake, pies, preserves—the Lee family lives well.

All the kitchen things are kept in their exact places, and supplies in the cupboards are arranged so they cannot get lost. Even a sighted cook can smell coffee, or onions, and shape, size, texture and other indications help the blind housewife. But when it comes to canned foods, in tins the same size and shape, and you want soup in a hurry, and open peaches instead, as Evelyn did the other day—is your face red!

The grocery boy reads off the labels when he brings canned stuff, and Evelyn marks the cans with labels in raised letters, written on her Braille slate. When new linen or furniture is bought, or a new radio, the new gadgets have to be learned. But a blind housewife, going by touch, gets the hang of new gadgets as quickly as a sighted person.

Evelyn is a product of a particular way of education for those blind from the cradle. Instead of going away to an institution for the blind, her aunt sent her to the Thirty-Second street grammar public school, and kept her at home, attending to her household training.

Los Angeles is one of the few cities where, as yet, blind children are brought into classes of sighted youngsters, and encouraged to come as close to them as possible in play and friendship.

This method of education gives a more normal life than that of an institution, and specialists in education for the blind frankly say so. The institution has its

advantages, of course, because it can teach special vocations to help the blind earn a living. In Los Angeles, the blind pupil may go on to the Polytechnic high school, where specialized training is available, though not adapted to blind pupils—for that, it seems to be necessary to gather blind children in institutions that draw from a whole state, because the proportion of blind is small.

However, this is a knotty educational problem.

If the census taker came to Evelyn's door, he would immediately put her down as a "housewife." That is the vocation she eventually adopted. The system of education by which she was trained has graduated a competent practitioner.

WE DO OUR PART

Falling in line with the Administration, and backing up President Roosevelt in his plan for National Recovery, the Braille Institute of America, Inc., and its printing department, the Universal Braille Press, have subscribed to the President's code.

Under its provision the employees of the press are now working thirty-five hours a week and the employees of the institute forty hours a week. This reduction in hours will, eventually, it is believed, provide a number of openings for blind and sighted people in our organization.

In reducing the number of hours the provisions of the code requiring that wages be maintained at their former level were followed, the employees of the press receiving the same weekly pay check for thirty-five hours as they formerly received for forty hours.

New Zealand Carries On

While times are hard in New Zealand, and Government support has been withdrawn from institutions for the blind, still the public continues to purchase the products of blind people, and these are the main support of institutions like the New Zealand Institute for the Blind, at Auckland. Clutha N. Mackenzie, director of that institution, writes us that in spite of money shortage he is building a new home for 28 elderly blind men, a pleasant sunny building, and the work is helpful in relieving unemployment.



Braille Literature at the Chicago Fair

Our Books and Magazines Figure in Five Different Exhibits at the Century of Progress

By J. ROBERT ATKINSON

AT the Century of Progress World's Fair, in Chicago, the Braille Institute of America and its printing department, the Universal Braille Press, are well represented. On the homeward trip, from attending a national convention on work for the blind, held in Richmond, Virginia, representatives of the Braille Institute, including myself, were delighted to find the Institute's works widely exhibited.

Entering the Fair Grounds, the first display we visited was the Time-Fortune Building. Here, in a very conspicuous place, in their bright, attractive colors of gold and blue, were seen "The Braille Mirror," and "March of Events," the Institute's two Braille monthlies.

Here, also, was seen even the specimen number of our "New Moon" magazine, a periodical soon to be launched in the Moon type for the blind. Its green cover blended harmoniously with the gold and blue dresses of the Braille monthlies.

This Moon magazine is the first publication in that type ever printed in America. The type was designed by Dr. William Moon, of Brighton, England, in 1847, for the special use of elderly blind men and women who find it difficult to master Braille. Thousands of volumes of Moon literature are circulated in the United States annually, all of which have been printed in England. Workers for the blind in this country welcome the announcement that now, through the progressive policy of the Braille Institute, such literature may be printed in America.

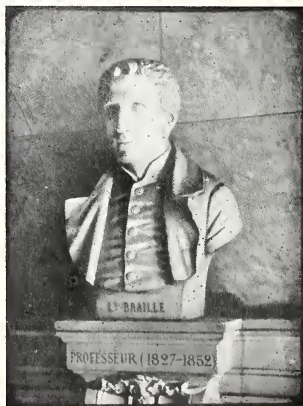
It is through the courtesy of Time, Incorporated, publishers of "Time" and "Fortune," that our embossed magazines are displayed at this exhaustive, colorful magazine exhibit, sponsored by them.

* * *

Leaving the Time-Fortune Building, we visited the Hall of Religion. Absorbed with the wonderful exhibits there, we were wending our way through the Hall, with no thought of finding more of our

publications displayed, when lo! as by magic, we came across the wonderful and illuminating exhibit of the Lutheran Church, where conspicuously placed was the Braille literature, all of which had been printed on our presses, under contract, for the Board of Missions to Deaf and Blind of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other states. Probably because the attendant in charge saw that I, myself, was without sight, he began at once to explain "The Lutheran Messenger for the Blind," a free Braille monthly.

Listening attentively, we were then shown the Braille edition of "Luther's Small Catechism," by William Dallman, "The Life of Dr. Martin Luther," arranged by Rev. A. H. Kuntz, editor of the Lutheran Messenger for the Blind, a volume of 100 evangelical hymns with Braille musical notations, and some other Braille works—all printed under contract



The outstanding figure in the blind's past century of progress—Louis Braille, inventor of the Braille system.

—Courtesy American Foundation for the Blind

by the Braille Institute's printing department.

Proceeding onward in this great hall of many exhibits, marking the spiritual advancement of the human race, we soon came across the exhibit displayed by the Christian Science Church. "The First Church of Christ, Scientist," in Boston, Massachusetts. Much to our surprise, here was found more Braille literature, that was printed on our presses, under contract for the Trustees under the Will of Mary Baker Eddy, such as the Braille edition of the Christian Science textbook, "Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures," "Unity of Good," "No and Yes," "Rudimental Divine Science," "Retrospection and Introspection,"—all by Mary Baker Eddy. This exhibit also included "The Christian Science Bible Lessons," monthly Braille edition, and the Braille edition of "The Christian Science Herald," printed by us under contract for the Christian Science Publishing Society.

To find these, and the other works exhibited, all of which had been printed on our press, made us feel quite at home in this great metropolis, and quite complimented too that our work was thus listed in this Century of Progress display.

* * *

Had this been all, it would have been quite enough to satisfy, but there was more yet to come. Leaving the Hall of Religion, we finally visited the Federal Building. In the display of the Library of Congress, we were gratified to find that the only Braille book exhibited bore the imprint of the Braille Institute's printing department. The book was "John Adams," by John T. Morse, Jr. It had been explained to me, while at the Library of Congress, in Washington, a week previous, that the book had been selected, quite impersonally, because of its artistic binding and good workmanship.

We were also aware that our magazines were exhibited, as Time, Incorporated, had invited us to send them for the purpose. But the other material displayed, which issued from our press, came as a very happy surprise. Another pleasant surprise in this connection was, that the attendant in charge of the Time-Fortune display greeted us as friends. He had visited our institution a year ago, while a resident of Los Angeles, though we did not know that he was now associated with Time, Incorporated.

In the Graphic Arts Division of the

General Exhibits Building we later came across another book published by the Braille Institute. This work, "The Layman's Legal Guide," by Francis Marshall, published in five Braille volumes, was included in the exhibit of Funk & Wagnalls Company, without our knowledge. The reprinting permit for it had been granted free by that company, whose generosity in this respect has made possible the Brailleing of many good books, of which they are the original publishers and copyright owners.

While in Chicago, we were told that the stage was fully set for an exhibit of the Atkinson Model stereotyping machine, sold to the Chicago Public Library two years ago. This machine might be called a Braille lin-o-type, for on it the plates are made from which the printing is done. The exhibitors intended to have it actually in operation, by a blind stereotypist, but through no fault of theirs the plan failed after all preparation had been made. From an educational viewpoint, and as a novelty as well, such a demonstration would have been well worth while. We find that comparatively few persons have any conception how Braille books are made.

* * *

It is naturally very gratifying to the officials and members of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., that its works in the field of Braille literature merited such recognition in this Century of Progress World's Fair. But more gratifying still, to them, and to many others engaged in welfare work for the blind, is the fact that the blind themselves are gradually coming into their own, that their cause is one worthy of public recognition and support, and that its advancement and sponsorship has now gained a place in the march of progress.

The Braille Institute of America, in championing the ability of the blind, asserts unqualifiedly: "Give the blind a chance, help them to rehabilitate themselves, and many of them will show by their works that they are self-respecting, resourceful citizens, who can support themselves, and who are not looking for sickly charity or pity."

In behalf of all who are heroically battling with the handicap of physical blindness, the Braille Institute expresses profound thanks to the institutions which are responsible for these exhibits at the Century of Progress World's Fair.

It's Tough to Be a Blind Greenhorn

The World Seems Doubly Hard-Boiled to
the Sightless Student from an Institution

By CARLYLE HOADLEY



To gain practical experience, after his musical education, this blind pianist did the chores in a music store.

THE blind often struggle under a double handicap. Besides lack of physical sight, they have to conquer the tough old world of every day people, after finishing their education at a special institution.

It is the "fresh-out-of-college" student, in another form, with the handicap of blindness added to inexperience, shyness, scarcity of friends and connections.

Alfred Kloess was such a "greenhorn," and his story will give sighted people an idea of this extra handicap of the blind.

As far back as he can remember, Alfred O. Kloess wanted to be a concert pianist. Even before he lost his sight, as a schoolboy, the desire was so strong that he worked hard at piano practice—which is proof enough to anybody who knows boys.

When he was seven, it was discovered that this boy's eyes were not strong, and he was put under medical care, but without betterment. Gradually his eyesight was disappearing, and therefore he was sent to the California State School for the Blind, at Berkeley, where along with the usual studies he took up music.

When he was fourteen, his family moved to Colorado, and he went to the

school for the blind at Colorado Springs. While playing outdoors at this institution, he was struck in one eye with a snowball, thrown by a companion, and the accident, which might not have meant anything serious to a boy with normal eyes, led to complete loss of sight. When the family moved back to California, a little later, his institutional education was finished at Berkeley.

And then came the adjustment period, "fresh-out-of-college," from the institution to the real world, the idealistic youth with his diploma, bucking practical affairs.

* * *

His first step was to try teaching piano, when he came to live in Los Angeles. But he did not know how to go about it, and in fact there seems to be no way to go about it, even for a sighted teacher, except to open a studio, and wait for pupils to come, and tell other pupils how capable you are. One year was spent in this attempt. It brought very few pupils, and no greater knowledge of the world.

Somewhat discouraged by this thin time, but resolved to overcome his handicap of greenness, young Kloess canvassed Los Angeles piano stores, offering to tune pianos free of charge, simply for the experience it would bring him. At the Berkeley school, among other things, he had taken a regular course in piano-tuning. He was willing to do anything to gain a foothold in the world.

"Before I had visited many stores," he says, "I found a proprietor who was willing to take me up, and to my surprise, on reporting for work, I was told that the store could not hire a steady tuner, because there was not enough work to keep one busy, but that if I would keep the instruments in good condition, I would be paid a dollar a day.

"That seemed almost too good to be true! When I started work, I found that I needed experience. It took me too long to tune a piano.

"Three years were spent at this store, with some little increase in pay, and as I

look back now, I can see that I was very much underpaid for the service I rendered. However, I was grateful then, and am still grateful for the experience it gave me. I was timid and awkward in dealing with people, and felt a sense of separation from those who could see, and of course they felt a sense of separation too, because very often they had never met a blind person.

"This particular store was the one place to give me the contacts and practice I needed. As the store did not employ any other help most of the time, I had to wait on customers in the absence of the proprietor, who was frequently out. When a customer rented or bought a piano, there were contracts to fill out, and it took diplomacy to persuade strangers to sign their names to blank contracts, which would be filled in later by the proprietor. As I could not tell the denomination of paper money, I had to collect payments with the understanding that receipts would be given them later, and that gave plenty of plain business dealing with people.

"This store did a large rental business, and had many pianos to be looked after in customers' homes. So it was necessary for me to go out on tuning calls in all parts of the city. I was not yet accustomed to going around alone, and had practically no acquaintance with the city, but there were the trips to be made, and I soon overcame my inexperience, finding my way about all over town."

After three years, Kloess took a vacation, and it was like the mail carrier's holiday, because he undertook to tune a few pianos on his own account. In two days, he earned more than a week's wages, and that led him to give up the store job, and begin boldly for himself, as a free-lance piano tuner.

Having more spare time on his hands, he decided to continue his musical education, and entered the Los Angeles Conservatory of Music and Arts, where he took a three-year course.

About a year after beginning business for himself, he was instrumental in pointing out to the Los Angeles Board of Education the desirability of giving blind children piano lessons in connection with their regular school work. The board had lately organized a day class for the blind children in one of the city schools. Kloess was given the position of teacher in this new field.

At the outset, the class was small, and

required only two days a week, so he continued his piano tuning business. Also, his work as a teacher of the blind soon led to his securing sighted pupils. The special blind class in Los Angeles public schools soon justified itself, and as this work grew, more and more of the blind teacher's time was required. Eventually he was devoting all his time to public school work, and gave up the tuning business, turning customers over to other schoolmates who had equipped themselves for that work.

* * *

Mr. Kloess is very enthusiastic about the plan of educating blind children with seeing children in the public schools. He maintains that it eliminates much of the feeling on the part of the blind that they are a different sort of individual from others, and it also illustrates to the seeing that the only difference between a blind person and one who sees is, that one has physical vision, and the other has not. Otherwise, their inclinations, ambitions, capabilities and pleasures are just as widely diversified as in any other group of individuals.

Every year, the Kloess pupils take part in a piano recital to which other children in the school are invited, and these annual programs are always helpful and happy occasions.

Teaching the Blind to Smile

Smiling for politeness' sake, and showing concern for others' misfortunes, is a language of which the blind know very little, because they are unable to observe facial expression, reports a French scientist, who has been studying the quiet, often apathetic faces of French blind people, and whose findings are reported in the "Journal of the American Braille Press."

Georges Dumas was studying the social art of "looking pleasant," and he found that the blind did not know how their faces change in emotion, or how to produce facial expressions at will.

One blind man, accustomed to self-analysis, said: "I know perfectly well what you ask me, but I do not know how joy, sorrow or anger are expressed on my face."

The same man said that he did not feel that his happy, laughing face was different from his face when sad.

M. Dumas attributes the absence of mimicry in blind people to their inability to observe other people and to imitate their expressions. Before his study of the blind, he said he had thought it likely that human beings learn mimicry by a different method from imitating others. He had speculated "that we imitate voluntarily in our own spontaneous expression after becoming conscious of it through our own muscular and cutaneous sensibility."

For the Blind, According to Their Needs

What the Blind Lack Most, in Each Community,
That the Lions' Clubs Seek to Provide

AS far back as 1927, the Lions' Club of Raleigh, North Carolina, took the lead in having free optometrical examinations given, and free eyeglasses supplied, to school children of that city, and Wake County, where the children were unable to pay for this much-needed attention.

Through the co-operation of the local county charity organization, and by direct aid in financing the work, approximately 400 children with defective sight have been fitted with glasses in six years, and teachers have reported that pupils thought to be backward have immediately shown improvement in their school work. During the past year, 164 pair of glasses have been furnished.

This work was undertaken largely through the interest of Louis M. Smith, a well-known Raleigh business man, and leader in the Lions' activities, and he has said that it is his chief reason for belonging to the organization. Mr. Smith has been keenly interested in public health work, and is a leader in the Parent-Teacher association. He secured the co-operation of teachers and school nurses, and at first the Raleigh club met the entire expense of glasses for city children. However, when the work was extended to the county, and depression came, it was necessary to arrange for assistance through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation.

* * *

Somewhere around 1,000 Lions' Clubs, the number varying from time to time, are engaged in activities to help the blind, and prevent blindness by timely optometrical attention.

The safeguarding of eyesight is the largest activity, rated by the number of clubs reporting at the recent convention of the Lions' International, held at St. Louis, for 324 clubs supply eyeglasses, 63 provide optical treatment, and 21 finance eye operations.

But the Lions are doing a splendidly varied work for the betterment of the actual blind, as shown in the following figures from the convention report, the

numerals indicating the number of clubs carrying on each activity:

Financial aid to destitute blind.....	27
Providing wearing apparel for blind.....	37
Operating clinics.....	13
Conducting eyesight surveys.....	9
Published Braille books.....	2
Eyesight conservation campaigns.....	4
Established workshops for blind.....	3
Equipped workshops.....	1
Secured pensions for blind persons.....	2
Supplied Braille reading.....	29
Conducted sightsaving classes.....	2
Conducted sales of blindcraft work.....	12
Established blind persons in business.....	9
Provided employment for blind.....	3
Organized blind welfare associations.....	2
Sponsored educational weeks for blind.....	1
Assisted in educational weeks.....	3
Supervised canteens operated by blind.....	1
Financed vocational training of blind.....	11
Placed blind children in schools.....	12
Established summer camps for blind.....	1
Financed summer vacations for blind.....	6
Staged entertainment with blind talent.....	11
Purchased typewriters for blind.....	5
Purchased radios for blind.....	7
Engaged nurses and teachers.....	2
Transportation for blind.....	37
Furnished glass eyes.....	16
Created blind welfare funds.....	9
Outings, entertainments for blind.....	39
Contributions to blind funds.....	31
Candy and gum machines for blind.....	2
Furnished white canes.....	71
Repaired eyeglasses.....	14
Repaired radios for blind.....	7
Aided blind in selling merchandise.....	14
Free teaching Braille reading and writing.....	1
Organized social clubs for blind.....	1
Free theaters for blind.....	1
Purchased "Seeing Eye" dogs.....	1

Blind at Hollywood Bowl

In spite of the fact that Hollywood Bowl carried on with great difficulty the past summer, and for a time it appeared as though there might be no "Symphonies Under the Stars" for 1933, the management did not forget the blind.

For sightless music-lovers, unable to pay the moderate admission, season tickets were provided for distribution by the Braille Institute of America, and without limitation as to the number that might be required. Through this gift, hundreds of admissions were distributed to blind persons who love music, many of whom are musicians themselves.

THE BLIND LOVER

By Ben Field

(Courtesy "Every Woman Magazine")

Land knew him as her botanist,
A king among the flowers;
Then o'er his eyes came blinding mist
And darkened were his hours.

A sweet and lovely girl was she,
Inspired by joy and song,
With pity quick for those in pain,
And tears for want and wrong.

One day, as was her habit kind,
She brought in radiant bloom,
The fairest flowers that she could find
To banish care and gloom.

The nurses white went to and fro,
The matron's voice was kind:
"Here child! with thy fair roses go
To him who now is blind.

"So shall the angels give thee pay
For charity of thine,
Go! take to him this fairest ray
Of happiness divine."

She entered then the darkened room,
With eager, hurrying feet;
A man arose within the gloom,
Oh heavenly smile and sweet
That lit his face!
He seized the flowers!
With rapid pace
He reached the sash
And threw it wide!
The thing was rash,
But held he not his hand!
He saw! the light of day
Was in his eyes, the hours
That science took to cut and brand,
The weary length of night,
Were gone.
And here were flowers,
His flowers, his goal,
And dawn,
Fair dawn again of sight.
He faced the girl
And clasped her in his arms;
He kissed her till delight
Made radiant all her charms.
Then quick and glad
To see pure love light up his face,
She helped him place
The roses in the rays of light
And murmured, to relieve her plight:
"God's love knows only perfect sight."

Salesmanship and the keeping of a small shop are suitable occupations for blind persons who have a good resistance to the idea of failure, and ability to keep going after setbacks.

The blind enjoy being in a crowd, with a seeing companion, and thus ideal entertainment for them is the motor or trolley trip, the picnic and the beach, anywhere outdoors, and amid activity.

The blind want advertising in their magazines chiefly to help find employment.

How One Blind Man Sees the World

"Blind Tommy" is a familiar figure in North Cumberland, England, going about by himself so confidently that it has been said, "If you were lost here, Blind Tommy could easily take you home."

Tommy Foster is an organist, with hundreds of compositions memorized, and has played twenty-one years in a church. He is also a traveling salesman of tea, perfumes and other specialties, supporting a wife and three children. He has been blind from babyhood.

But one of the best things he does is lecture for charity on "How a Blind Man Sees the World," and a stranger who lately took a ride with him, got a free demonstration.

"I took him for a car ride," says this observer, "and was astonished at his knowledge of the buildings we passed. He knew when we went through a gate, and that it was a cow that caused a quick pull up. He told me where a wrecked ship was lying, saying he knew by the difference in sound, and when I lit my pipe, he remarked that it needed filling—'I could hear your pipe whistle,' he explained.

"His pleasures take the form of motor-bus rides to see the country, and so he has a free pass for the buses. One day he walked into the bus garage and said he had come to see the different jobs going on, and followed the work so closely that it was clear he knew motor mechanism.

"As we were going home, a car passed us, and he remarked, 'That's a nice little car!' and gave his reasons for thinking so, all based on acute hearing, memory and reasoning.

"Tommy Foster's best lecture is himself!"

Why the Blind Have a Sense of Humor

The blind girls in Australia's institutional schools have a keen sense of humor, and love to pretend that they are perfectly normal, says Dr. Isabel Randall-Collyer, in the "Mid-Pacific Magazine."

"I know more than once I have been tricked into answering a sudden call of 'Quick, come here, look out of this window, now isn't that a lovely view?... don't you adore those little yachts on the harbor,' or something like that. They become so perfectly natural that often one forgets entirely their handicap, and this pleases them most of all; they like to forget it too."

Showing Braille Bible Improvements

A Reception Given to Demonstrate Braille Advances
Made in Producing Bibles for the Blind

FOR sometime past it has been the custom of the Braille Bible Society to hold an open house reception to further acquaint the public with what blind people can do professionally and industrially when properly trained and given a chance; and on these occasions members and friends are also given an opportunity to see how Braille Bibles are printed.

At a recent reception a short musical program was given by blind artists featuring Calvin Hendricks, Atwater-Kent prize winner for 1929, and little Betty Laureine Clarke. Blind readers demonstrated the art of reading through the sense of touch. The compactness of the Bible printed on both sides of the page, over older editions, was demonstrated.

Joseph Wright, chairman for the evening, introduced the president of the Society, Herman O. Meyer, who welcomed the guests and gave a very comprehensive talk on the object and purpose of the Society.

Braille Bible Society, Inc., is a non-profit, non-sectarian corporation, organized exclusively for the purpose of distributing the King James Version of the Bible in Braille free to the blind, or at prices they can afford to pay. With the aid of philanthropy, the Society has been able to send various portions of the Bible, which comprises 21 volumes in Braille, to blind readers all over the world, regardless of creed or religion.

Among the requests recently received by the Society is one from a minister of the Baptist Church in Australia. This gentleman, on making a change of location, had given his 39-volume Bible in Braille to a worthy young man, as he would have no place to store it. While he had found the 39-volume Bible a very great handicap, on account of its bulk, yet, as he says, "you will realize, too, that to a minister it is his chiefest tool."

A request is also on file from a blind minister of the Church of Scotland, located in the Shetland Isles.

The Braille Bible Society's edition of the Bible is much more compact, because it is printed on both sides of the paper,

reducing the complete King James version of the Scripture to 21 volumes, 16 for the Old Testament, and 5 for the New Testament, each 11 by 11 inches, durably bound in black Fabrikoid.

On the bottom line of each page, easily accessible to the fingers of blind readers, is printed the name of the Bible book, with the chapter and verses appearing on that page and by a novel plan of numbering the verses themselves, a Braille reader can find any desired passage easily and quickly. Blind ministers say that it is a delight to use this systematically arranged Bible.

The work of the Braille Bible Society is truly international and non-sectarian, and the Bible volumes which are sold for \$1 apiece to the blind, cost the Society more than twice that amount.

The distribution cost of one Braille Bible in twenty-one volumes is about \$8 a volume, or approximately \$165 complete. If published commercially, the selling price would be considerably more.

Obviously, some provision must be made to sustain the difference between the distribution cost and what the blind are able to pay, if the blind are to be supplied with Bibles. This is being accomplished through the voluntary contributions of the public. With the financial help of many generous friends all over the world, any Braille reader can purchase this Bible at the special price of \$1 a volume, prepaid to any address in the world. If the blind cannot pay even this price, volumes will be sent absolutely free. More Bibles are distributed on this basis than are sold.

Additional funds are needed to take care of the constantly increasing requests for free volumes of the Scriptures. Contributions may be sent to the Braille Bible Society, Inc., 739 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

A club of eight blind fishermen who held an outing near Grand Rapids, Michigan, not only baited their own hooks, and landed their own catches, but caught more fish than sighted anglers. Which leads the editor of the Philadelphia **Public Ledger** to wonder if blind people really do have some mysterious faculty.

With 35 Hens, He Built a Business

When this Blind Youth Sought an Occupation, Poultry-Raising Gave Him His Start into Chick-Hatching

SIGHTLESS since childhood, George H. Hagopian, of Wrentham, Massachusetts, has developed probably the largest Rhode Island Red baby chick hatchery in the world, according to a writer in the Boston **Post**.

But his fight against what seemed at the time an insurmountable obstacle has not been an easy one. Twenty-two years

Hagopian hires 25 men on his huge, modern poultry farm. His spacious private office, equipped with a modern filing system, his two private secretaries, all suggest the big business executive rather than the ordinary run of poultry farmer.

He has 21,500 breeders, all pedigreed and State blood-tested. Some of these breeders have been shipped as far as the Virgin Islands.

But the biggest part of his business has consisted of raising and shipping baby chicks. Last year he shipped 75,000 of these to all parts of the country and even as far as Winnipeg, Canada.

Clifford Pitman, superintendent of the farm, who is closely attached to Hagopian, said that his boss has a lot of will power. "And when he says a thing, it usually comes out the way he predicts," was his little sidelight to the character of this unusual man.

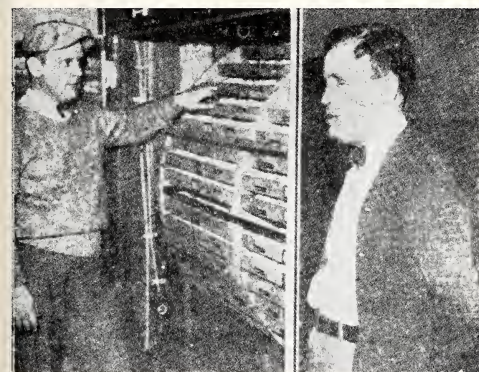
"Says he is going to have 30,000 breeders next year, and if he says it I know that he is going to have the 30,000. He always gets what he goes after."

He has just added a 13,000-egg electric incubator to his equipment. He has seven other hot-water incubators.

"He always adjusts the incubators himself," said Pitman. "I read the thermometers, but he is an experienced hand at making the adjustments and years of experience enable him to know just how it should be done."

Last year he opened his second farm on May street, Wrentham, equipped with modern two-story breeding pens, grain houses, oat-sprouting bins, automatic drinking fountains and a dozen other up-to-date appliances.

In showing his visitors about the farm, Hagopian walked with a quick, alert step. He has read literature on poultry by the Braille system, which he learned at Perkins Institution.



Blind George Hagopian (right) and view of electric incubator lately installed in his plant which employs 25 people.

ago, when he came home to Wrentham from the Perkins Institution and Massachusetts School for the Blind, all the odds seemed to be against him.

But Hagopian had and has more will power than the average man and he set his jaw firmly for the long, up-hill climb. At first he did not know what to do. Every road seemed barred. Then someone suggested that he raise hens.

"It was the only thing possible at the time," he said, "and it seemed to be one of the few ways open to me to make a living in this town."

Today he has 21,500 breeders.

He had only 35 hens to start with and practically no capital. He had had no special training in poultry raising. But despite his blindness, today he is a successful man.

Meet the Blind Piano Tuner

All, or practically all, of the blind piano-tuners in this part of the country are graduates of the New York Institute for the Education of the Blind. Ever since the eighties, says the **New Yorker**, they have had a class in piano-tuning there. In that decade the upright piano became popular. This created a demand for tuners.

The demand for piano-tuners isn't what it was, what with the victrola, the radio, the movies, and so on, but the course is still fairly popular. Fourteen pupils registered week before last, when the new term started, which is about average. They have a whole floor to themselves, with nine small rooms for individual study and practice, and one large one where they take pianos apart, reassemble them, and learn to repair them, as tuners often have to do. The teacher, Mr. R. J. Harvey, is himself totally blind, but he gets to and from his home in Brooklyn every day, by subway, without incident. He is almost sixty now. He walked across the George Washington bridge soon after it opened. Thought the feel of the experience interesting.

There is a general belief that blind men make better tuners than those who can see, but Mr. Harvey says this isn't true, except that blind men work faster and are more accurate, since they have less to distract them. The main requirement of a good tuner is a perfect sense of pitch, which has nothing to do with sight. Several of the blind graduates have won fame in their profession, however. Armin Schotte, for instance, who worked for the Steinway Company and at the beginning of the century was internationally known both for the excellence of his work and his rudeness to musical personages.

Mr. Harvey says there are probably fewer blind tuners today than people think. He knows of only twenty-five of his pupils practicing hereabouts. Formerly, they had a blind piano tuners' guild of their own, but this organization has not lately held a meeting.

Egypt is reported to lead the world in blindness, with more than one per cent of its population sightless, but over the whole world the proportion is less than one per cent.

"Handicaps overcome" is the motto of the "Braille Mirror" magazine for the blind.

IN CAMP

By HELEN MAY MARTIN

(Blind and Deaf)

While Night is holding high her lamp,
The silver moon that lights our camp,
By the brook that singing, rippling, flows,
And the night winds caressing, softly blows.

At morn the valley in shadows dim,
Till the sun shines over the hill-top rim,
And waking the birds, that begin to sing,
Their joyous notes in the clear air fling.

Close to Nature once more we live,
With all the beauty that she can give,
Over the woods, and hills we tramp,
So pass the happy days in camp.

Dogs Lead Blind Veterans

A recent dog show in Berlin, Germany, ended with a parade of dogs and their exhibitors, in which there was a special section for blind men, each led by a trained police dog. The German government provides such a dog for every man blinded in the service of the fatherland. These dogs are marked with a large red cross as protection from traffic. In the parade men and dogs marched together in a long column, six abreast. Not once did the dogs let their charges become entangled.

A Braille manual for Boy Scouts is being prepared by Mrs. Norman B. Morrell, of Knoxville, Tennessee, a blind woman who, since she lost her own sight several years ago, has specialized in the making of Braille books under the American Red Cross.

Although printing for the blind has been under way for at least a century, it is still to a large extent in its infancy. Only within the past few years has it been really mechanized, and there are still improvements to be made to reduce the cost of Braille reading matter.

Postage on some Braille books supplied to blind readers from public libraries would often cost more than ink-print edition of the book itself. So, Uncle Sam wisely carries braille books free for blind readers.

For blind students who qualify for college, many states now grant funds with which they employ readers to aid them in their studies. New York was first to make such arrangements, in 1907, and other states soon followed. For more than 25 years the plan has worked well.

As in the life of sighted people, the outstanding work of the more talented blind is a source of encouragement to the less talented, as well as a source of prestige to all.

It is agreed among those who keep pace with advancement in work for the blind that, although nothing like ideal conditions have as yet been even visualized, the blind of today are better off than those of previous generations—physically, intellectually, socially, economically and morally.

Roosevelt Won't Change This Program!

Blind Readers Want to Keep Up with the News—
And We'll Keep On Helping Them Keep Up



THEY say coming events cast a shadow before. Huh! that shadow you see nowadays generally belongs to some important event that happened yesterday, which you missed. How we have to hustle to keep up with the news, these times! Big things are popping every ten minutes under President Roosevelt's recovery program.

Now, if it is hard for us sighted fellows to keep up, just picture how it must be with the blind fellow who is ambitious, and keen, and wants to follow all the developments of this program. People read to him, maybe, and he hears some of it

over the radio. But there is nothing that can give him so much satisfaction as one of our Braille magazines, which he can sit down and read himself.

Now, I'm for the Roosevelt program, a hundred and eleven per cent. But one thing our President is not going to change, and that is my standing offer of a free subscription to a Braille magazine, to a deserving blind pal, unable to pay, given with every three-dollar subscription you sighted pals send in for this magazine "Light"—and you get this magazine a year.

That's my NIRA code of ethics!

Yours positively,

The Subscription Man

Seen With Half an Eye

Clerk: "For five years I've been doing three men's work—how about a raise?"

Pharmacist: "Can't do that, but if you tell me who those other two guys are, I'll fire 'em?"

* * *

A club is a place where you pay dues to meet fellows who owe you money.

* * *

Imagine my embarrassment, my dear, when, according to my usual custom, I looked under the bed before retiring. You see, I had forgotten that I was in an upper berth.

* * *

Mother: "Why did you strike your little sister?"

Young Bobby: "Well, we were playing Adam and Eve and instead of tempting me with the apple, she ate it herself."

* * *

Jeanne, aged four, was fishing with her father, who was wearing his fishing license on the back of his hat. Not having a great deal of luck, Jeanne offered the following suggestion: "Daddy, turn your hat around so the fish can see your license."

* * *

Ab, the Cave Man: "Hey, Ucko, your mother-in-law has just been attacked by a sabre-tooth tiger!"

Ucko: "Well, what of it? I should worry about what happens to a sabre-tooth tiger."

Lady (buying fur coat): "Can I wear this fur coat in the rain without hurting it?"

Salesman: "Madam, have you ever seen a squirrel carrying an umbrella?"

* * *

Proud father (showing triplets to visitor): "What do you think of them?"

Visitor (pointing to one in the middle): "I'd keep that one."

* * *

"Even in Bible times a blowout was a great annoyance," writes J. B., "for do we not read in Isaiah XXIII, 5: 'They shall be sorely pained at the report of Tyre?'"

* * *

First Clerk: "I thought Jenkins started his holiday yesterday morning."

Second Clerk: "Yes, he's spending it here in the office. He comes and goes as he pleases, takes his time for lunch, bothers nobody, does nothing, and says it rests him to see other people work. I'd like to knock his block off."

* * *

Prue: "Every time I wear this bathing suit, I blush."

Sue: "Never mind, you'll soon tan."

* * *

Teacher—"Correct this sentence: 'It was me that spilt the ink.'"

Pupil—"It wasn't me that spilt the ink."

* * *

Buck: "Can you give me a definition of an orator?"

Private: "Sure. He's the fellow who's always ready to lay down your life for his country."

A Successful Blind Attorney

Besides Law Practice and Official Duties,
John Spann Finds Time for a Musical Career

SIGHTED people not only believe, firmly, that the blind find it easier than sighted folks to concentrate their minds, but have even been known to envy the blind for this advantage!

There could be no worse mistake.

"Don't say that blindness is an aid to concentration!" directed blind John A. Spann, in an interview with a reporter for the Redding, California, **Searchlight**. "It isn't true. When my wife is reading cases to me, I haven't the distraction of color and movement to keep me alert. It's the easiest thing in the world to fall asleep, if I don't hold myself strictly to the task in hand."

But Mr. Spann doesn't fall asleep, added the reporter, for his alertness is testified to by the amount of work he turns out. Although he has been totally blind since 1922, John A. Spann not only carries on his work as a deputy district attorney successfully, but he swims, dances, changes tires on his automobile, and can reline brakes or make things for the house as a carpenter.

He was only seventeen years old when he fell from a horse, and received injuries that led to loss of sight. Sent to the California State School for the Blind, at Berkeley, and graduated from the University High School there, he became one of the outstanding students at the University of Santa Clara, and later a law student at the University of San Francisco Law School, from which he was graduated with the degree of LL.B in 1930. At college, he was very active as an orator, winning the debating contest in 1927.

Admitted to the California Bar, he began the practice of law in the office of W. D. Tillotson, in Redding, and in 1933 became deputy district attorney.

In 1927 he met Mrs. Evelyn Walgren, a rising young singer, who became his wife, and Mrs. Spann has since been his constant companion. She acts as his secretary, and reads his cases and law books to him, and has cultivated his naturally good baritone voice, so that music is also one of his greatest pleasures, and brings him in great demand for recitals.

Our Own Who's Who

Robert W. Whomes is an "old-timer" in Los Angeles. He tells us that he used to shoot rabbits on the dairy ranch that is now the property surrounding Fourth and Vermont—and when he came to Los Angeles, Broadway was a cow-path:



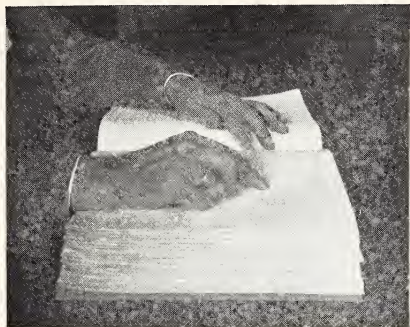
Robert W. Whomes

Dr. Whomes was born in Kewanee, Illinois, and moved with his family to Los Angeles in 1886, after spending his boyhood in Texas, where he received his early schooling. In 1887-88, the Whomes family residence was on Sixth Street, between Spring and Broad-

way, the present site of the Hayward Hotel. Although now retired, Dr. Whomes practiced dentistry in Los Angeles for twenty-five years.

The growth of the Braille Institute and its allied activities is not unlike the growth of the city where it was founded. Dr. Whomes first became interested in the blind when Braille books were printed in a garage at the Atkinson home. His interest and unflinching support have been a constant source of inspiration and help to Mr. Atkinson in bringing the institution to its present high place in work for the blind—the only plant west of the Mississippi River engaged in printing books for the blind on a large scale, and embodying various activities devoted to the social, industrial and cultural welfare of the blind.

The cause of the blind is greatly accelerated by the active support of such men as Dr. Whomes.



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LIGHT



Blind workers re-caning chairs in the State Industrial Work Shop for the Blind, Los Angeles—where visitors are always welcome.

—Braille Institute photo.

OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 1933



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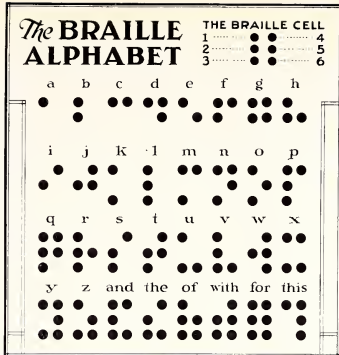
—
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The Braille "cell" of six dots gives 63 combinations, each of which is used for a character. Besides letters of the alphabet, there are punctuation marks and contractions of often-used words.

Braille capital letters are indicated by using the small letter, preceded by the No. 6 dot.

Figures are indicated by the first ten letters of the alphabet, preceded by dots 3, 4, 5 and 6.

As Anglicized, the word is pronounced "brail"—not "brailey."



The Braille Institute of America, Inc., was chartered under the laws of the State of California on the 100th anniversary of the Braille system of printing for the blind, as a memorial to Louis Braille, of Paris, France (1806-1852), that great friend and blind benefactor of the blind, who made it possible for them to write as well as read.

This explains the prominence given to the word Braille in the Institute's name, and the practical omission therefrom of any word which has a direct bearing on welfare work for the blind.

The BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC., is a national non-profit institution devoted to the social, industrial and literary advancement of the blind, with headquarters at 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

It was established to acquire and extend the activities of the Universal Braille Press, an unincorporated non-profit institution, founded in 1919, by J. Robert Atkinson, with the assistance of philanthropic friends.

Governed by a board of trustees, elected annually by the members, and established on a firm foundation, to receive and expend gifts and endowments for the welfare of the blind, it ranks among the nation's leading institutions in the field of philanthropy, thereby affording an outlet for the benevolence of all who wish to help those handicapped by physical blindness.

The nation's blind population is estimated at 120,000, of whom 90 per cent lost their sight after reaching maturity. To the latter, the doors of tax-supported schools for the education of the youthful blind are closed.

Blind adults everywhere are appealing to the Institute for help and counsel. They are yearning for a chance to voice their needs and convictions to someone who can understand their problems, and they recognize in the Braille Institute, founded by a blind man, a bond of sympathy and leadership on which to anchor hope.

The Braille Institute of America's activities include:

Sponsorship of books and magazines printed in Braille and Moon types, on a non-profit basis, and free to the blind unable to pay.

A Bureau of Better Business and Social Welfare for the Blind, its object being to find employment or business locations for able-bodied blind men and women in the professions and trades, to assist them by loans until they are successfully established, and to lend aid as well to the indigent blind who, for good reasons, cannot be rehabilitated for productive labor, and who may not be eligible for governmental aid or custodial care provided in their respective communities.

Maintenance of a Free Lending Library, stocked with embossed books and magazines including fiction and works on the various vocations followed by the blind.

Free instruction in reading and writing Braille, and in Moon reading.

Scholarships for vocational and higher education in branches of the trades and professions.

MAGAZINES

"March of Events," a digest of world news, printed in Braille and published monthly. "The Braille Mirror," a panorama of world affairs, printed in Braille and published monthly. "New Moon," an embossed magazine reflecting a panorama of world affairs, printed in Moon type, and dedicated to the elderly blind.

The Institute's activities are sustained through voluntary contributions and the sale of memberships, as follows: Participating member, \$1 per annum; Patron member, \$5; Contributing member, \$25; Associate member, \$50; Sustaining member, \$100; Life member, \$1,000.

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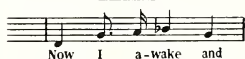


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To further acquaint sighted people with the ambitions and success of the blind, and enlist aid in meeting their problem of securing good reading matter.

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VOL. 5 OCTOBER-DECEMBER, 1933 No. 5

The Handicap

By JAMES H. COLLINS

IT certainly looks like a crazy world! As far back as I can remember, the fellow who made two blades grow instead of one, was given a private office and a platinum blonde secretary.

But today, you are lucky to find a job. If you have one, the whistle blows before you get fairly warmed up. Your pay envelope is bobbed. If you have a business, and boost your volume, you are taking the other fellow's customers.

However—remember. During the World War we paid a bonus to every fellow who increased production. And raised production too high. Now we have to reduce—and it is logical to pay bonuses for plowing under cotton, and killing hogs.

* * *

In other words, we are all working under a handicap, imposed by the times, and this gives point to something the blind are always saying about themselves—that they suffer a handicap, not an affliction.

And the toughest part of that handicap is laid on the blind by Man—not God.

Many of the occupations followed

by sighted folks are well within the abilities of the blind—even office and factory work.

The blind have the brains and hands, and have overcome their lack of physical sight, and in overcoming have often undergone self-training in abilities that the business world values, such as attentiveness, memory, tact and cheerfulness.

But the skeptical old world refuses to try the blind person's abilities. It rejects him or her on handicap, and thereby bars the way, not only to self-supporting employment, but to daily association with the factory run of human beings, which is of even greater importance to the blind.

This is a great country, and it is going to work back to normal, and produce again to the top of its capacity, and have a lot of fun doing so, as in the past.

However, while we are all limited by the national handicap, let us remember that, where we have to run with one leg tied, the blind are not even allowed to start.

The purpose of LIGHT is to help remove this handicap on the blind, by letting you meet real blind people in its pages.

His Hobby Has Been Braille Music

A Blind Man Who Works for Better Scores,
and Better Chances for Blind Musicians

By JAMES H. COLLINS

YOU know how music is written. Picture a piano score, with treble and bass in two separate parts, to be read simultaneously by the sighted performer.

Now try to picture the same score translated into Braille dots, to be read with the fingers.

There you have a problem which, for fifteen years or more, has occupied a blind musician and writer, who has made real headway in simplifying music for the blind.

At present, L. W. Rodenberg is connected with the Illinois School for the Blind, at Jacksonville, Illinois. He has been blind since the age of ten, when an accident deprived him of sight. Sent to the Jacksonville school when twelve, he proved one of the bright boys, quick at mechanical work, and capable at most of the studies offered blind pupils.

But music made the strongest appeal. After graduation he returned for more of it, intending to go into what musicians call "the music game." In 1912, when he was twenty-one, Mr. Jewell, the superintendent of the school's Braille printing department died. Young Rodenberg sang at the funeral, and was impressed by the clergyman's question, "Can there be anyone to take his place?" The superintendent had been a very able man, and much loved. To his astonishment, young Rodenberg was offered the place, and accepted—and there began his work with Braille music.

* * *

In music for sighted people, a piano score is one of the simplest kinds of composition. As parts are added, for singing or instrumental ensembles, the music becomes more complex, until at the extreme you have the full score of a symphony, with parts for the different instruments of



L. W. Rodenberg

the orchestra written one below the other, a whole page of them—and many musicians get great enjoyment from reading over such scores, which would be beyond the physical grasp of a blind music-lover with twenty fingers, no matter how keen the musical intelligence waiting to read and enjoy.

At the school, there was a lot of Braille music in stereotype plates, and a big catalogue of those plates. Mail orders for music came from every quarter of the compass, and in handling the orders and plates, young Rodenberg got a glimpse of

the handicaps under which blind musicians labor. Presently he wrote a "Key to Musical Braille," which went into these problems.

This led to a study of what was being done elsewhere to simplify Braille music, especially in Europe, and eventually he began experimenting to find a better arrangement for notes on the Braille page.

"The older paragraph method," he says, "had long been impeached, and had been replaced in England by the two 'styles' called 'bar by bar' and 'vertical score'."

"'Bar by bar' is a measure-wise disposition of keyboard music along a single line—left hand, right hand, left hand, right hand, and so on.

"'Vertical score' is a scoring of a measure from the bass through the treble, either as chords or as sections of the measure.

"The new principle, born in Europe, was that the comingled parts of the measure—of the piece—should be comprehended by the reading finger integrally, even as the phonograph needle comprehends the full score. All of which was, and still is excellent. But in most instances, fluency of reading yielded to complexity, especially if a blind music teacher wished to follow his pupil.

"So, I worked out certain principles of 'easy reading,' which I combined into fourteen possible 'styles,' and put them out for examination by several scores of blind musicians. As a result, the majority preferred the style now known as 'bar over bar,' which is nothing more than an imitation of the staff. It employs two lines, the upper one giving the right-hand part of piano music, and the lower one the left-hand part. There are other features, such as marginal numbers, indicating repeats, and so forth."

* * *

This method of printing music for the blind was adopted for the music printed at Jacksonville, and in teaching music to pupils at the Illinois school.

In 1921, Mr. Rodenberg collaborated with others on a committee to prepare a first primer of Braille music, and recommended the establishment of a music printing department at the American Printing House for the Blind. He kept the subject of Braille music constantly under discussion among those working for the blind, speaking on the history of embossed music, and pointing out its present difficulties and future development.

In 1925, he edited a comprehensive work on Braille music, a two-year task, which was subjected to critical tests by a committee of musicians, and this is still used as a reference work on the subject.

In 1929, he was sent to Paris, as the American delegate to the International Conference on Braille Music, brought together through the efforts of Monsieur Raverat. On this journey he traveled alone, and afterwards visited various institutions for the blind in France, Germany and England.

While over there, he arranged with M. Raverat the details of a new Braille musical journal, the "Musical Review for the Blind," now published in Paris, of which he is assistant editor. And he has since written and edited other works on Braille music.

Besides all this, he is active in bringing about technical improvements for the blind musician, so that more of the people who are handicapped by lack of sight, yet gifted musically, may find a means of livelihood.

For example, he maintains that many more blind singers and musicians could be employed in churches, if properly

trained, and he was impressed by the advances which the French blind have made in this direction, for upwards of a thousand blind musicians are attached to church musical organizations in that country. To bring about such an opportunity for blind musicians here, he has written and spoken both to the blind, and to the sighted people among whom a sentiment for the idea must be created.

Another thing he is working on, with excellent possibilities, is a "sight method" for writing songs in Braille, by which it will be feasible to simultaneously read the words and notes with the fingers, as sighted musicians read printed music.

Still another project, too technical for description in this short article, is the adaptation of tonic sol-fa to Braille.

Calling himself "a jack of all trades," this blind man has found a multitude of interests within his power, and from the time he first began his schooling, has led a busy life, enjoyed every minute of it, and made his interests and abilities useful to others in the world of Brailleland.

A Census of Blind Workers

Steps have been taken to enroll all blind persons in California, for classification and zoning according to their abilities, so the task of finding work for them will be simplified.

This enrollment is proceeding through questionnaires, sent out by the Bureau of Better Business for the Blind, operated by the Braille Institute of America, and the aid of sighted persons who know blind California people seeking occupation will be welcomed—write the Bureau at 741 North Vermont avenue, Los Angeles.

Progressive blind men and women want something to do, something by which to keep both mind and body employed. The Bureau seeks to help them find occupation, and promote their social, industrial and literary advancement. The state of California rehabilitates the blind, with other handicapped citizens, but unfortunately has made no provision for finding employment.

That the blind seek only a chance, not charity, is shown in the number of successful sightless persons in the professions and trades. There are two blind men in the California legislature, four in that of Texas, and three in Congress.

Blind Soldier "Fun" Club

Believed to be the first organization of its kind in existence, a disabled veterans' group of totally blind members was recently organized in Long Beach, California. There are thirty-one charter members.

The men are veterans of the Indian, Spanish-American, Philippine and World Wars, and all lost their sight in service.

They say, "We're not unhappy; we've lots to live for. We're clubbing together for fun."

Help Us Put 10,000 Blind At Work

Uncle Sam Can Do It, by Permitting News-Stands in Federal Buildings—Support H. R. 5694

WITHOUT one cent of expense to himself, Uncle Sam can put to work, in self-supporting business, 10,000 blind men and women. And he will do it, if the House of Representatives bill No. 5694, now before Congress, is passed. Possibly 20,000 stands can be established under this law.

On top of that, there are 10,000 more places of the same kind which can be developed in state, county and city buildings over the country, if the example of the Federal Government is followed, which would make 30,000 all told.

All friends of the blind, and the blind themselves, are asked to write their representatives in Congress, in support of H. R. 5694. Now is the time for all to come to the aid of the cause.

This bill was introduced by the blind Congressman, Hon. Matthew A. Dunn, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, at the recent special session, and provides for licensing stands in Federal buildings to blind persons for the sale of newspapers, periodicals, candies and tobacco.

It will create a Bureau of Welfare for the Blind, as part of the Postoffice Department, which will have jurisdiction, for this purpose only, over all Federal buildings. The Bureau will license blind persons to conduct stands, and costs will be met by a license fee, paid by the blind themselves. As Bureau expenses are estimated at only \$15,000 a year, a couple of dollars license fee will cover them, and no expense be laid upon the Government.

With such a plan in operation, it is confidently believed that local governments will follow, creating 10,000 more stands for blind people, who will get into self-supporting business for themselves. With the full co-operation of the Army and Navy Departments, almost 20,000 stands can be created at once under the Federal bill.

Thus, the unemployment problem of the blind, all over the country, and in our outlying possessions, will be solved, and the morale of blind citizens greatly strengthened.

Similar bills have been introduced into

Congress in the past, but failed of passage for technical reasons.

The present bill was drawn up with the advice of the two blind United States Senators, Thomas D. Schall, of Minnesota, and Thomas P. Gore, of Oklahoma, utilizing their experiences with previous measures of the same kind.

Great credit for pioneer work in support of this splendid plan is due a blind journalist, Edward C. Robbins, of Portland, Oregon, who prepared past bills, and when they were defeated in Congress, profited by defeat to revise them.

President Roosevelt is in sympathy with the present bill, and has so stated, in a personal interview with another blind worker in this cause, Leonard A. Robinson, an attorney in Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Robinson was invited to Washington last May, and after conference with blind members of Congress, aided in drafting the present bill.

Last January, before inauguration, Mr. Roosevelt extended an invitation to Mr. Robinson to visit him in New York and discuss the proposed law, and Mr. Robinson found that the President-elect did not have to be told about the economic problems of the blind. Mr. Roosevelt read the bills which had been drawn up to that time, and heartily approved their purpose, pointing out that blind people are permitted to operate stands in the buildings of New York State.

Secretary of Labor Perkins has said, "I believe the idea of the bill is a good one, on the whole, and should have no objection to it." It is to be expected that she would endorse the measure because a similar bill had her approval.

Therefore, the friends of the blind are asked to make known their approval of this measure, and to organize their support, individually and as organizations, ready to see it through the coming session of Congress, opening in a few weeks. *This they can do by writing their Senators and Representatives in Congress to support H. R. 5694.*

Don't be deceived by propaganda issuing from any source favoring a presidential executive order as a means of

making stands in Federal buildings available to blind licensees, instead of legislation by Congress, such as is proposed in this bill, H. R. 5694.

If in doubt, write the Braille Institute of America or Glenn H. Hoffman, president of the Welfare Association of the Sightless of Ohio, 4212 East 96th Street, Cleveland, Ohio, for facts showing why a presidential executive order would defeat the very purpose, rather than insure its success.

Blind Workers for this Great Placement Program

Matthew A. Dunn

The sponsor in Congress of the bill to establish stands for the blind in Federal buildings is himself blind, and a conspicuous instance of success under his handicap.



Matthew A. Dunn

He is a Democrat.

Mr. Dunn was born in Braddock, Pennsylvania, August 15, 1886, and attended schools in Pittsburgh and Myersdale. At the age of twelve, he lost the sight of his left eye through an accident, and again, at twenty, sight in his remaining eye was lost while wrestling at the Newsboys' Home, Pittsburgh.

While a boy, he sold newspapers, and after losing his sight, became a student in the Pittsburgh and Overbrook (Philadelphia) schools for the blind. He resumed business as a newsdealer, and also, he became a fire insurance broker for the Birmingham Fire Insurance Company, of Pittsburgh, with which he is still connected as an agent. He is married.

Edward C. Robbins

The employment problem of the blind has been the concern of Edward C. Robbins, Portland, Oregon, newspaper man, ever since he himself faced the problem, and successfully solved it by making his place as a journalist.

Mr. Robbins was born in Portland in 1901, and at eighteen had lost his sight through gradual failing. Before that mishap, he had finished grammar school, spent a year in high school, and worked as a railroad telegrapher during the World War.



Edward C. Robbins

Blindness forced the planning of an entirely new career, so he entered the Oregon State School for the Blind, at Salem, learned piano-tuning as well as Braille, and set about readjustment with such vim that, in less than a year, he was graduated with highest honors. From there, he went to the Oregon Institute of Technology, operated by the Portland Y.M.C.A., and after a four-year course in journalism, started as a reporter for the Portland "Daily Telegram."

"A true journalist is always interested in the welfare of humanity," he maintains, and as a newspaper man he soon interested himself in the welfare of the blind. A state aid plan giving \$500 a year to blind students for reading and other necessary aid in their studies, was introduced in the Oregon legislature at his suggestion, and adopted largely as a result of his single-handed work. He formed the Western Foundation of the Blind, Inc., in Portland, made up of self-supporting sightless people in his state. And he prepared bills establishing sales stands for the blind in Federal buildings, interested Senators and Congressmen in the project, and when his bills were defeated, again introduced them in revised form.

Leonard A. Robinson

Radio was displacing piano-tuning for the blind, and vacuum cleaners the making of brooms, when Leonard A. Robinson finished college, and as soon as he opened a law office in Cleveland, Ohio, many blind persons came asking him to help them find employment. So, he began to study the blind, and found them regular people, and undertook investigations of their economic chances, which eventually led him



to interview Franklin D. Roosevelt on the bill for placing blind persons in Federal buildings.

Mr. Robinson was born in Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1904, and lost the sight of his left eye at seven, from an air rifle shot, which led to blindness a few years later. In 1922, he was admitted at the Pennsylvania Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, Philadelphia, and was graduated there, and also from high school. Going to the University of Tennessee, he made the regular Arts course in three years, and began the study of law, having gained a teacher's certificate which he did not use. In 1929 he was graduated from the Western Reserve Law School, and admitted to the Ohio bar, beginning practice in Cleveland, where his people then lived.

He began to look into legislation for the blind, and in the "Braille Mirror" learned about the Schall bill, whereby the blind would be permitted to operate stands in Federal buildings. Having found that blind persons were successfully running businesses of this kind, he studied the bill, began working on its behalf, and when the Schall bill failed of passage through shortcomings, set to work with blind members of Congress to eliminate those defects. This work led to his conference with President-elect Roosevelt last winter.

The Heartaches of a Blind Inventor

He Has to Work Out His Big Idea Through Other Eyes, Often Against Engineering Skepticism

By J. ROBERT ATKINSON

IF "the way of the transgressor is hard," the way of the inventor is harder; especially if the inventor is blind and must depend upon the eyes of others. His own eyes being in the tips of his fingers, he cannot read a blue print. To see that his model is true to the pattern, he must take it from the mechanic's table, grease and all, and with his finger tips examine every part, which often means black eyes for him.

Just this morning I had such an experience. We are developing a noiseless, portable Braille typewriter. The engineer presented the first working model, which as usual was plastered with oil and grease—a mechanic's best friend, especially when showing for the first time a working model of a new invention, which, without grease, might not be a working model. Examining every mechanical part critically with my finger tips, there wasn't any black grease left on the typewriter at the end of the inspection.

Late in 1919, when I was asked to equip and take full charge of a printing plant for the blind, I was not aware that I possessed any mechanical ability. Nor am I sure today that I am so gifted.

But, as it soon developed, it was necessary to utilize mechanical knowledge of some kind, or else use in its place a good substitute. Never accused of having luck, the results must speak for themselves, whether or not it was mere chance, mechanical genius, or a special dispensation of divine Providence that is responsible for what happened under my direction.

* * *

In February, 1920, I went East to purchase Braille printing equipment. Imagine my surprise to learn that no one would recommend the presses and equipment then in use. The reason for this is simple enough. Printing for the blind cannot be conducted for commercial profit. Consequently, the development of machinery for the purpose was not com-

mercially profitable to mechanical genius. So, while marked strides were being made toward the perfection and development of presses that can be adjusted to take paper from large rolls, and turn out completed newspapers in one or two colors, from four to forty-eight pages; and can produce twelve-page papers at the rate of 144,000 copies an hour, printed, folded and counted, ready for distribution, printing agencies for the blind have struggled on, with improvised presses, sometimes producing only one page at a time—models that would make the old Washington hand-press look like the last word in modern invention of the 25th Century.

In recent years, however, revolutionary steps have been taken in the field of printing for the blind, with the result that we now have rotary presses with a capacity of from 15,000 to 32,000 Braille pages an hour on magazine work.

Returning home, somewhat disappointed, but not defeated, the services of a mechanical engineer were secured, and we went about the task of designing printing equipment. Right there, the fight began. He had his ideas, I had mine, and often they conflicted. He could out-talk me, in the engineering vernacular, but he couldn't get away with his talk. He had never seen an embossing machine such as we were developing. I had seen only the one model in the East, which was not satisfactorily perfected.

So, we went to work to develop printing equipment uninfluenced by anything on the market, especially designed to raise the standard of Braille printing. I personally dictated all the ideas and specifications, the engineer tracing them on paper.

But how was I to know that his drawings actually sketched my ideas? The only way I could know this was to wait until the patterns were made, so that I could feel them. Even then it was not possible to know that he had interpreted aright all of the ideas, as patterns are

made only for the castings, the finer mechanism being made from the drawings themselves. Therefore, it was not until after the mechanical parts were actually made that I could check the engineer's work.

Then, to my distress, I learned that he had utterly failed to interpret my design for the clutch, which was really the most important part of the electrically controlled mechanism. The engineer argued that he did understand what I suggested, but that he deviated from it, because it wasn't workable. I contended that it was workable, but I could not support my contention in mechanical terms, and for a time he won the day.

When the machine was finally assembled, the clutch seemed a complete failure. Confronted with this, the engineer reluctantly admitted that he was wrong. As he had no remedy for the ill, then and there I took the reins in my own hands, and with the mechanic's assistance we made a machine out of it in almost a jiffy.

* * *

The remedy was as simple as the cause of the difficulty was interesting. The engineer had completely misconstrued my ideas for a clutch. Therefore, he designed it upside down.

This discovery cost me another black eye, for the information had to come through the tips of my fingers, examining carefully each integral part of the greasy mechanism. But the cure was worth the cost. Having discovered the cause, the machinist simply reversed the clutch mechanism, drilled a hole or two for the necessary adjustments, and the problem was solved.

In the vernacular of Braille printing, the machine is called a "stereotyper." On it the stereotyped, or embossed plates, from which the Braille pages are printed, are made. Among other modern improvements, it made possible the setting up of Braille matter in various sizes of type and line spacing. As a result, we were able to set up a book in Braille to correspond, line for line and page for page, with the ink print copy. For ten years the publishers of this book had been told that such was not possible.

In recent years, improvements have been brought out on this machine which have revolutionized Braille printing, among other things, perfecting the art of printing on both sides of the paper, which

returns a net saving of about fifty per cent both in production cost and volume.

This process is called "interpointing," partially for the reason that the space between dots, on the reverse side of the paper, is used. It is a matter of very delicate alignment. If a machine is off "register" only two-thousandths of an inch, the result is similar to a blur in ink print, and the blind reader notices at a glance the imperfect spacing. Yet, this two-side printing, when accurately done, is very legible to the sensitive fingers of the blind, and they really prefer it to printing on one side of the paper only.

Sixteen of these stereotyping machines are now in use in various printing plants, and three more are in the course of construction.

Other inventions brought out under my direction are improvements on printing presses—clever clamps for locking the plates on the press for quick make-ready, and other ingenious designs to facilitate the feeding of wet paper, which is always used in Braille publications of a permanent nature. These improvements make it possible to change a run on the presses almost in the twinkling of any eye, which is very essential in reducing the production cost of Braille books, usually printed in runs of only 50 or 100 copies.

For several months we have been developing equipment for the printing of books in the Moon type, used by elderly people. This type-setting machine is as revolutionary in design as it is complicated.

Perhaps most important of my inventions is that of the noiseless portable Braille typewriter already mentioned in this article, the development of which is now well along. It is specially designed for the use of blind salesmen, reporters and other workers and for students in the classroom. It will not weigh more than five pounds and will contain in a case 4x5x12 inches.

And it will meet the famous "long-felt want" that inspires all successful inventions, because the blind have wanted this convenience a long time.

Again and again, legacies to institutions for the blind have come at critical times, when money was badly needed. This has been especially true during the depression.

More than 34,000 Braille books yearly are borrowed from the Chicago Public Library by blind readers in seven adjoining states.

"Let the Blind Gun for Big Game"

Sightless Since 12, David E. Guyton Has
Succeeded as Teacher, Banker and Writer

By A CORRESPONDENT

THOUGH totally blind since a boy of twelve, David E. Guyton, Blue Mountain, Mississippi, has received recognition as a college professor, journalist, poet and bank president.

Born on a Southern plantation, son of Captain J. J. Guyton, Confederate officer, and Callie Hoyle Guyton, February 21, 1880, this blind man, who, in early life, determined not to be downed by the darkness, at the age of eleven, stabbed himself in the eye with a pocket-knife, becoming totally blind at twelve.

After two years at the Mississippi State School for the Blind, Jackson, he studied at home under a private tutor, later entering a college for sighted women, being the first man to receive the B. A. degree from Blue Mountain College, as well as its first blind student.

Guyton also graduated from the University of Mississippi with the B. S. degree, studying law, and leading the Junior law class with a sessional grade of 97 at the state university, where he was elected to membership in Phi Delta Theta and in Sigma Upsilon, inter-national literary fraternity. He was the first blind man to graduate from the University of Mississippi.

Wishing to prepare for efficient teaching, Guyton entered Columbia University, New York City, receiving the M. A. degree in one year, being Columbia's first blind M. A. student. He also did graduate study in the University of Chicago.

Within a week after graduating from Blue Mountain College, Guyton was invited to serve as an instructor in modern languages in his alma mater, teaching French, German and also Anglo-Saxon.

Proving himself able to teach sighted students, he was promoted to be head of



David E. Guyton

the school of English in this institution, which is a standard four-year college for women, a member of both the Southern Association of Colleges and Association of American Colleges.

After specializing in history and political science in Columbia University, Guyton was made head of the school of history and political science in Blue Mountain College, which position he has held since 1914. He is now teaching his twenty-ninth session on this faculty, receives the same salary and same recognition as the other full professors.

Guyton always has a private reader to serve as his eyes, using this reader to prepare for his recitations, read and grade his papers, keep his school records, and see that everything goes well in the classroom.

Guyton dictates diagrams, maps, outlines and similar teaching aids for the black board, makes much use of dramatization in his classes, and is assured by his students that they rarely ever even think of his being blind when at his work.

Guyton knows from his own experience that blindness is no bar to teaching sighted students, but admits that boards of trustees and college presidents are not yet fully aware of the truth of this evident fact.

Guyton for years has been an active newspaper reporter, writing news stories, feature articles and other contributions to a number of metropolitan dailies. He has a nose for news, writes rapidly on the typewriter, makes his own carbon copies, folds and mails his own materials, and resorts to telegraph and telephone for spot news, just as any sighted reporter would do. He has attracted wide attention as a journalist, and his copy has been highly praised by the editors. Some

months ago his activities were given national notice in the "Strange as it Seems" pictorial newspaper feature of John Hix.

Fond of poetry, and with a natural sense of rhythm, he has been writing verses all his life, making no pretense at writing real poetry, but producing and getting published hundreds of newspaper poems, appearing in daily and weekly newspapers all over the country. More than two hundred of these poems have been published during the past three years.

Familiar with the fundamental theories of political science, which he has been teaching for years, and successful in handling his own private affairs, Guyton was several months ago elected a director of the Bank of Blue Mountain, simply being called up over the telephone and asked if he would agree to serve on the board. The same day, he was elected president of the bank, by the board of directors, the first blind man in the United States, it is said, to receive this recognition.

* * *

Guyton sees no reason on earth why a blind man with natural business ability and theoretical training in the principles and practices of banking should not render satisfactory service as a bank director, or even president. Eyes are not essential to sound business judgment, the chief asset of a banker, along with character and integrity. The main barrier to overcome is the lack of understanding on the part of the sighted of the actual and potential powers of the blind.

Guyton is happily married, his wife being a member of the faculty of Blue Mountain College, and also one of the only two women selected to serve as a member of the board of trustees of state institutions of higher learning in Mississippi. Mrs. Guyton, a childhood sweetheart of Guyton, loves books; and he and she find much joy in learning. Mrs. Guyton was Miss Corinne O'Neal Rogers, New Albany, Mississippi, and she is both eyes and inspiration to her husband. They have no children.

Guyton is a radio fan of the keenest relish, and always keeps the best radio his money can buy. He regards radio as the biggest single benefaction to the blind. He can operate commercial telegraph instruments, teaches a men's Bible class in Sunday School, and takes an active part in political and economic life, rarely ever even meeting a blind person.

He reads and appreciates Braille, but finds it more satisfactory to utilize his readers. His Braille writer is regularly made use of in taking notes. But he believes that the blind should rely upon their own memories as much as possible, and should make a point of proving to sighted people that blindness is only a minor matter when it comes to the larger attainments of life.

As soon as seeing men and women realize what gifted blind men and women can accomplish, doors of opportunity will be flung wide open; and the blind will come into their inheritance, scoring brilliant successes in various lines of activity, and forever eradicating the notion that blind people can do little else than sit on the street corner, cup in hand.

However, he admits that he has enjoyed "the breaks" most of his life, attributing no little of his own small success to the smiles of Lady Luck, who has stood him in good stead all along. He believes the blind should mingle as much as possible among the sighted, forget their blindness, and make everybody else forget it.

Blind people with teaching talent can render good service in teaching sighted students. Blindness is no bar to literary production. Eyes are not essentials of journalistic achievement, and blind bankers can hardly do a poorer job than sighted bankers have done during the past several years.

Let the blind go gunning for big game, and quit wasting perfectly good ammunition on insignificant game. The blind must refuse to be placed upon the bargain counter. They must claim their place in the big show-windows, and must break into the majors in the big game of life.

"Blindcraft" A Trademark

The word "Blindcraft" is a trademark, registered in the United States Patent Office, and the property of the San Francisco Association for the Blind, which conducts at Seventh and Howard streets, that city, a factory for the work of the blind, whose products are sold under this trademark.

In the August-September, 1933, number of "Light," reference was made to sales of "blindcraft" work by Lions' Club. This was a misuse of the word, and while unintentional, leads the management of the San Francisco institution to call attention to its trademark right. It has been necessary to make other corrections, and to alertly protect the word, which cannot be used by others.

The Editor of "Light" is sorry that the mistake occurred.

His Voice Made Its Own Career

A Peculiarly Sympathetic Baritone, Finely Trained,
Marked Earl Houk for Solo Singing at Funerals

By RALPH ANDERSON

ALTHOUGH Earl C. Houk, blind baritone, has sung as soloist at nearly five thousand funerals the past twenty years, he finds his calling far from saddening.

"People nowadays take a more hopeful view of death than they did a generation ago," he says. "Mournful and depressing hymns, like 'Nearer My Go to Thee,' 'The Vacant Chair' and 'Shall We Gather at the River?' are seldom if ever requested at services, and present-day favorites are songs like 'The End of a Perfect Day,' by Carrie Jacobs Bond."

Mr. Houk is an ardent baseball fan, and is well known to ball players, umpires, sports writers and managers, because for two seasons he handled the Associated Press short score, and the baseball game descriptions for the Los Angeles **Record**. Also, in addition to his musical activities, he has found time to devote to the insurance business, holding an agency with the E. D. Williams Company, of Los Angeles, representing the Norwich Union Indemnity and Dixie Fire insurance companies.

It was largely by accident that he became a funeral soloist. An Elk for many years, he was appointed soloist by his Los Angeles lodge, No. 99, and in that capacity was called upon to sing at lodge funerals. People liked the peculiarly sympathetic quality of his voice, and outside requests came to him, until in 1912 he abandoned other musical work to devote his whole time to these engagements.

Mr. Houk is associated with the LeRoy Bagley Mortuary, 5440 Hollywood boulevard, Hollywood, as resident soloist, and in conversation with the writer Mr. LeRoy Bagley said, "Earl's sympathetic and beautifully trained baritone voice has



Earl C. Houk

elicited much favorable comment from those requiring his services, and we value him highly as a member of our organization."

Born in New Brighton, Pennsylvania, and losing his sight when only six weeks old, by infection, little Earl attended the public schools of that city, and entered the Western Pennsylvania Institution for the Blind, at Pittsburgh. There he studied voice and choir singing under the noted organist and choirmaster, Richard R. Broadberry, and completed his education at the Institution for the Blind at Indianapolis, when his parents moved to Indiana. Besides high school and junior college, he studied voice, violin, piano tuning and building.

Then followed two years at the Metropolitan School of Music, Indianapolis, where he was the only blind student, and received voice training and a diploma in the teachers' course.

After graduation, he accepted a position as principal of the vocal department of the Conservatory of Music of Wittenburg College, Springfield, Ohio, and after four years, resigned to come to Los Angeles, where he has lived ever since.

He was soloist and choirmaster at the First English Lutheran Church, Los Angeles, for twelve years, and filled the same position at the Presbyterian Church of Eagle Rock. To assist in paying his tuition in Indianapolis, he was a member of the solo quartet of the Fourth Presbyterian Church, that city, of which Rev. Dr. McIntyre, president of Wabash College, was pastor. He has also studied with William Shakespear, of London, England, and Louis Graveure, the renowned Belgian baritone. Mr. Houk is married, and has a grown daughter, and a son in Fairfax High School.

KFAC is Our Official Radio Station

The Braille Institute of America inaugurated a series of weekly broadcasts over Station KFAC, Los Angeles, Thursday, November 9, at 4:45 P. M.

Through the courtesy of the Los Angeles Broadcasting Company, owners of KFAC, that station becomes the official broadcasting station of the Institute, which is entirely in accord with its altruistic policy.

Each week officials and friends of the Institute will speak, and blind artists will be presented.

The object of these broadcasts is to bring to the public a comprehensive, sympathetic understanding of the problems of the physically blind, and to show what they can do toward earning independent livelihoods in the trades and professions when successfully fitted for them.

Robert A. Odell, president of the institution was the speaker on the first program and Calvin Hendricks, blind baritone of the Braille Institute, was the artist.

On November 16, William H. Kindig, secretary of the Braille Institute and associated with its founder for 21 years in the effort to promote the welfare of the blind, was the speaker. Earl C. Houk, church and concert baritone, was the soloist.

Judge Frank C. Collier, of the Los Angeles County Superior Court and Trustee of the Braille Institute, was of the speaker November 23. Judge Collier confined his talk to the employment problem as it relates to the blind and pointed out that the passage of House of Representative bill No. 5694, now pending before Congress, would be a happy solution thereof, with no burden to the tax-payers or private philanthropy. Friends of the blind were urged to write their Congressmen to support the measure when it comes up for consideration in the oncoming session of Congress.

You are invited to tune in to these programs, which will be broadcast every Thursday afternoon at 4:45. Send your comments and suggestions to KFAC, 3443 Wilshire boulevard, Los Angeles, or to the Braille Institute of America.

Blind Girl Scouts

The United States has eighteen Girl Scout troops for the blind, all of whom successfully carry on the activities of Scouting despite their handicap. In her report to the American Braille Press, Mrs. Helen Ward Stevens, a member of the board of directors of the National Girl Scout Organization, says that "regular Girl Scouting can be given blind girls, and it is the judgment of experienced leaders that changes in the regular requirements should be made only if absolutely necessary. The girls themselves want no changes, no concessions." The organization has provided many Braille books and pamphlets to blind Girl Scouts, and a new handbook is to be issued soon.—Literary Digest.

"I never take my trouble home with me from the office."

"I don't have to, either; mine's also usually there at home, waiting for me."

Blind Woman Demonstrator

A large department store organized a sales campaign on washing machines which had a motor-drive wringer attached.

The main obstacle in selling these machines was to convince women that the wringer was safe—that it could not harm them by catching their fingers in the rolls.

Some stores had demonstrated this point by having an operator stick her fingers in the wringer, but a better way was found by this particular store.

A blind woman was hired to run the wringer in a big show window, and spectators became convinced that what was safe for a blind woman must be absolutely harmless for a sighted person.

The innovation suggests that blind persons, men as well as women, could often do the work of window and store demonstrators, and the fact that such operators were sightless would lend interest to the demonstration.

In another year, it is hoped, every blind person in Great Britain will have a radio set. Some 23,000 sets have already been supplied to needy blind listeners, and since 1929 nearly a quarter-million dollars has been contributed by the public for this purpose.

A woman in Georgia who has lived to be over 100 years old, declares she never has seen an automobile. No wonder she has lived so long.

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Any service at this Mortuary makes each funeral a Memorial Tribute.

A Blinded French Soldier's Come-Back

Georges Scapini Mastered Law with His Fingers,
and Gained the Bar and a Good Legal Practice

From "A Challenge to Darkness," the Life Story of J. Georges Scapini, published
by Doubleday, Doran & Company.

SOME people have said to me by way of consolation, "Bah! since you are blind, you escape the sight of many ugly things." I think that the first time I heard this remark, I could have killed the person who said it.

Now, my sight was quenched forever. I must find some means of retrieving my loss. I looked straight at the circumstances of my changed life, resolved to throw overboard all the foolish scruples which had prevented me from learning Braille, and undertook to acquire the art of reading with my fingers. It was not long before I got so that I could read slowly, and write.

Alone, shut up in my room, I began reading a book. I noticed, however, a curious feeling of shame. I tried in vain to read when anyone, even my mother, was present. A strange shyness seized me as soon as a third person appeared on the scene. The signs at my fingertips had no shape in my brain. I forced myself to tackle this difficulty, and little by little I became expert in writing, and gained a certain amount of speed in reading. This was a revelation to me, and I felt immensely proud of having overcome the obstacles in two essential departments of re-education—reading and writing.

At that time, I undertook a round of visits to all the friends of my family, to find a job.

On this occasion, I gained a rapid but complete acquaintance with life. Everybody promised to help me along, and positively declared that something would be found for me. As a matter of fact, they did nothing. It was then that I understood life as it really is. The war was already a matter of the past, and in the future I must not count on anyone but myself.

It was imperative that I should find a profession which would not require anybody's patronage, at least not in the beginning. I knew of but one such profession—the practice of law. Conse-

quently, I decided to become a lawyer, bought the books necessary, and begged a law professor to initiate me into the legal mysteries.

I liked my work. What I was trying to do opened up new horizons to me, and I made up my mind to organize my life in a rational manner by using to the utmost the faculties I still possessed.

I learned to ride horseback. At first, I had some queer experiences, but one or two falls without any serious consequences contributed to my discipline, so that soon I felt quite at home in the saddle. I went out into the woods a great deal with only a groom as escort. At first the worthy man insisted that I should let him guide my horse with a leading rein. I stubbornly refused, and all went finely. On horseback I had a sense of absolute self-reliance. This experience in riding was decisive—I no longer doubted that I should regain my independence.

Ever since my childhood I had been a good swimmer. One day I went with some friends to a pool, and to their surprise I plunged right in with perfect ease, trusting only to instinctive reactions.

I also rode a bicycle, skated, and did a little fencing.

Learning Braille had suggested to me the idea of playing cards. I looked about to see if there were any special games for the blind. There were some, but they were complicated, and not easy to follow. I imagined something else that suited me better, and began to play simple games. I had always heard that bridge was a noble game, and I had someone teach me the rules, quickly got the hang, and could soon play respectably.

I did not neglect my law studies, and when the time came for the first examination, I passed successfully. I asked if the period of the two following examinations could be shortened, and took them in the same year, a gain of two years, and was admitted to the bar in Paris.

The first client who put a fee on my office table filled my heart with pride and

joy, even if the sum was a small one. I had passed through the hardest stage of my progress, and had only to keep on, and that was comparatively simple.

In ordinary life, people think that every individual without sight becomes a creature deprived of all activity, all power, and all work. Human beings do not take the trouble to reflect.

It is difficult to contend with prejudices, and it is ill-advised to argue, to say, "I can do this, I can do that." One must be able to say, "I have done this, I have done that."

Bureau of Better Business for the Blind

Our Bureau of Better Business for the Blind reminds "Light" readers that in every metropolis, and often in many rural districts, there may be found blind men and women in the business and professional world who are depending upon their own resourcefulness for independent livelihoods—in salesmanship, fire and life insurance, real estate and brokerage and other commercial enterprises; others are leading in the professions as doctors, lawyers, musicians, teachers, lecturers and the like.

They ask only for a chance—a chance to merit your patronage that they can maintain their self-respect and thereby earn independent livelihoods. "Light" asks that you give them your moral support and patronage.

HAVE YOU A RELATIVE OR
FRIEND WITHOUT SIGHT
WITH WHOM YOU LIKE TO
CORRESPOND?

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specially designed for the blind or
near-sighted makes this possible.

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(Demonstrator may be seen at the Braille
Institute of America, 741 North Vermont Ave.)

Vocations Successfully Followed by the Blind

That the blind when successfully rehabilitated can make good in the industrial and professional world is indicated by personality sketches of successful blind men and women which are featured in "Light," a magazine published by the Braille Institute of America, Inc., 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, Calif.

Specifically the object of "Light" as stated in its masthead is "to further acquaint sighted people with the ambitions and successes of the blind."

The following are some of the vocations which have been featured as successful vocations for the blind:

Senators	Beauty operator
Insurance salesman	Teacher
Dictaphone operator	Novelist
Psychiatrist	Telephone operator
Osteopath	Director Blind Institute
Radio entertainer	Postman
Orchestra leader	Art shop business
Fisherman	Siamese preacher
Toastmaster	Cellist
Wrestler	Mechanic
Playwright	Blind harness overseer
Piano-tuner	for circus
Editor and publisher	Gardener
Radio builder	Housewife
Japanese minister	Piano teacher
Factory workers	Organist
Inventor rubber Braille tags	Poultry business
Professional pianist	Attorney
Salesman typewriter supplies	Banker
Wire sculptural artist	

The Braille Institute of America is a national philanthropic institution devoted exclusively to the welfare of the blind.

Carpenter Paper Company

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SQUARE
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PAPERS

6931 Stanford Avenue, Los Angeles

A Gift of Work to the Blind

While on Part Time, Last Summer, Braille
Institute Employees Gave Labor to Make a Book

THE factory employees of the Braille Institute of America believe in the service the institution is rendering to the blind, and they have a way of showing their faith by their works.

In midsummer, when the printing department was threatened by a temporary suspension of operation, and when the Institute's funds would not justify the sponsorship of many books, the employees came forward with a constructive suggestion. They voluntarily agreed to donate the labor in the publication of a good book in Braille, provided the Braille Institute would furnish the material and necessary overhead expense entailed in its production. This the Institute gladly agreed to do.

The book selected was "Scouting on Two Continents," by Major Frederick Russell Burnham. When the matter was called to Major Burnham's attention, in seeking the reprinting privileges, Major Burnham, himself a Los Angeles resident, was deeply moved, and spontaneously offered some financial assistance by which to supply free copies of the book to leading libraries, which conduct free lending departments of books for the blind, throughout the nation and in other countries.

On the title page of the book appears the following matter, both in inkprint and in Braille:

"This, the Braille edition of 'Scouting on Two Continents,' is dedicated to Braille readers everywhere by the employees of the Universal Braille Press, who generously gave their time and labor in its making, and by the Braille Institute of America, Inc., which donated the materials. Acknowledgment is due to the United Printing Company, of Los Angeles, which supplied the inkprint title page.

"The Braille Institute of America is indebted to the author, Maj. Frederick R. Burnham, for a generous contribution which made it possible to supply free copies to libraries in the United States, and to the School for the Blind, Worcester, South Africa; Library for the

Blind, Grahamstown, South Africa; Braille Library, Melbourne, Australia; National Library for the Blind, London, England; New Zealand Institute for the Blind, Auckland, New Zealand; American Braille Press, Paris, France; and Canadian National Institute, Toronto, Ontario."

Maj. Burnham's appreciation of the ability of the blind is expressed in the following words, written to a blind friend:

"I always recall, with what wonderful precision and a touch as light as air, you piloted your way along down the avenue. As you perhaps remember, I was a scout, and trained to keen perception, yet compared to yours as you have developed it, I feel I would be like the Roman warrior at the overwhelming of Pompeii by Vesuvius, obliged to depend upon a blind person to save my life."

Today, the organization of the Universal Braille Press is again working full time, twenty people, three of whom are blind, and seven handicapped.

In producing "Scouting on Two Continents" as a labor gift to the blind, these employees apportioned the work on an equitable basis. A total of 400 man-hours was required to print the three volumes in Braille, and an edition of sixty copies was published. The gift was inspired by the knowledge that, times or no times, the blind always need more good books.

Free Language Lessons in Braille

Free lessons in Spanish, Italian, French and German Braille are offered blind students by the Lions' Club of Orlando, Florida. Instruction is given by correspondence, and the club has 225 students, located in 39 states, the District of Columbia and one oceanic island, six of them deaf as well as blind. The supervisor of this institution is Mrs. N. M. G. Prange, who says: "The instruction has passed the inspection of an accomplished linguist, and the Braille characters were secured from abroad. The letters of these languages are the same as in English, and the Braille letters are the same for the alphabet, but each marked letter has its own symbol in each language. Help can be given by anyone reading script, whether knowing the language or not, for each symbol is penciled. It would seem that there would be a demand for this service in our large cities."

A Blind Cookery Expert

Even Before Losing His Sight, Reginald White

Liked to Cook—So This Became His New Calling

AMONG occupations for the blinded adult, cookery seems to be uncommon. But Reginald D. White, of Stockton, California, adopted it when his eyesight vanished, nearly ten years ago, and has made it a profession as well as a hobby. He frequently gives cooking talks over the radio, conducts cooking classes, and is a demonstrator of cooking appliances.

Mr. White lives at 1431 South California street, Stockton, reports the little periodical of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Francisco, and his home is "all-electric," so that besides cooking he is able to do most of the other household work.

He has the aid of a trained police dog, "Wickee," who understands from 850 to 1,000 words, and can lead her blind master to any business establishment in downtown Stockton.

Mr. White keeps house for his wife and seven-year-old daughter, Florence. He cooks the meals, does the washing and ironing, performs all the other tasks in the home.

A few months ago he took charge of a cooking class sponsored by Jane Friendly of the San Francisco "Chronicle." At another time he gave demonstrations in the use of an electric ironer at stores in San Francisco, Oakland, and Stockton. And every so often he makes radio talks on home economics.

White learned housekeeping twice—before and after he became blind in 1925. As a boy he was his mother's "hired girl" and got so much satisfaction out of "making things" that he read every cook book he could lay his hands on.

When White lost his sight, housekeeping became for him a necessity instead of a hobby, because Mrs. White turned wage-earner and he took over her duties. But he soon found a way to overcome his handicap. To "do housework quickly and properly," he completely electrified his home. He installed an electric range, refrigerator, water heater, washing machine, ironer, portable heater and many small

appliances. Most of them are specially marked so that he can regulate them perfectly.

With the aid of his electric servants, White gets his housework done speedily and well, and has "all sorts of leisure time." He says:

"I can prepare as many dishes as anyone, perhaps more. I can bake anything from sugar cookies to angel-food cake or French macaroons. I can get a dinner for eight or ten persons on two hours' notice. I can cook inexpensively, too. Last month I turned out 520 meals at a cost of less than 12 cents per person per meal."

Lottery for the Blind

The 1,000 blind poor persons of Madrid, asserting that the motor car has made dangerous the playing of musical instruments or begging in the streets, have formed a new scheme to avoid being dependent on charity. This is a daily lottery, consisting of tickets selling at about a penny, with a large number of small prizes. The blind vendors earn small sums in selling the tickets, of which the daily sale is about 4,000, the largest number being purchased in the poorer districts.—New York Times.

A Difficult Achievement

Forced into seclusion during the last years of his life, by failing eyesight, the late Viscount Grey of Falloiden, foreign minister of Great Britain from 1905 to 1916, attained an expert knowledge of Braille, by self-instruction.

As he did this while still retaining some sight, his case is unique, for it is seldom that a sighted person learns to read Braille by touch, apart from picking out a few letters. Sighted proof-readers and printers at the Braille Institute of America become proficient in reading by sight, but are helpless when it comes to deciphering Braille with their fingertips.

Even the blind are not exempt from bridge! Experts have invaded their domain with systems in Braille. Once there was some consolation in being blind, bewails the Hackensack "Record," but that excuse for not playing contract is gone forever.

However, there are advantages—the blind player cannot see the fierce look of contempt when he forces his partner's psychic, and is not at all downcast by the clouded brow of an opponent when he has played from the wrong hand.

REMEMBER through advertising in "Light," all subscription revenue is net to the blind.

How You Can Change a Nickel for a Quarter

It's Simple, When You Know How, and Anybody
Can Turn the Trick by the Power of Advertising



ALL you pay for the "Saturday Evening Post" is a nickel. But they tell me it costs a quarter to manufacture. Your jitney wouldn't buy the white paper. It's the advertising that pays the difference.

The same thing with this little magazine "Light." None of the funds contributed for the blind go into its making. Every good pal who sends me three dollars for a year's subscription, gets this magazine, and sponsors another subscription to one of our Braille magazines for a blind pal.

It's the advertising that pays the difference with us, too. Therefore, neighbors, you can give an extra boost by patron-

izing the firms that advertise in our pages. There's neither charity nor sentiment in this proposition. We want our advertisers to get their money's worth, so that we can give you and the blind value. Our advertisers are certainly entitled to this, and when you turn your business in their direction, they keep on advertising with us.

Our advertising manager says that he could tell quite a story of hardship and disappointment in chasing business these days. But who couldn't! We all have our handicaps, and about the only good reason I know for carrying on is, that there are so many good people who understand, and are willing to help when they can throw business our way.

Yours buoyantly,

The Subscription Man

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Seen With Half an Eye

Every Jill must have her Jack,
And every Jack his Jill,
Or all the world would go to wrack
And stand forever still.

Every Jack must have his Jill
Or suffer for the lack—
He'd take her with a better will
If every Jill had jack!
—Arthur Newman.

* * *

Life is exactly like a laundry. You get out of it what you put in—but you'd never recognize it.

* * *

A man suing for divorce out West charges that his wife kissed him only when she wanted money. What an affectionate woman!

* * *

Joan: "I am going to do my bit, dad. I'm getting a dressmaker to teach me how to cut out frocks."

Dad: "I don't want you to go so far as that. But I think you might cut out cigarettes and thirty-dollar hats."

* * *

Swap—Drink mixer, glasses, trays, etc., for good baby carriage.

* * *

"Ever pick a quarrel with your wife?" "No, I leave it to her. She picks much better ones."

Mrs. Rideout: "What lovely fleecy clouds! I'd like to be up there sitting on one of them."
Mr. Rideout: "All right, you drive the car."

* * *

Josephine: "What's Cora peeved about?"
Aggy: "Oh, she says it was bad enough walking home from auto rides, but this parachute jumping is getting on her nerves."

* * *

"Wait a second, I want to rubber at that girl."
"Well, make it snappy."

* * *

When Eve had eaten the first apple she realized for the first time her nakedness. It looks to us as if it is about time to pass the apples again.

* * *

A little fellow left in charge of his tiny brother called out to the mother, "Won't you please speak to baby; he's sitting on the fly-paper and a lot of flies are waiting to get on it."

* * *

Our minister says he doesn't mind members of the congregation pulling out their watches on him, but it gets his goat to have them put the darn things up to their ears to see if they are going.

* * *

Helen Keller the famous deaf-dumb-blind lecturer was asked, "Can you feel colors?"
"Yes," was her clever repartee, "I can feel blue."

* * *

A prominent biologist says that he has never heard of a perfect man. He should marry a widow.

BENEFIT FOR BRAILLE INSTITUTE

The Braille Institute of America, and its members and friends, are indebted to the All American Women's Organization, of Hollywood, for an all-star benefit given in its behalf in the Philharmonic Auditorium, Los Angeles, Friday evening, October 27.

Thanks is also due to the artists, musicians and producers who very generously donated their talents. Those who assisted in this way were Paramount Theatre, Fanchon & Marco, Sid Grauman, American Federation of Musicians, Ginger Rogers, Ed Lowry of Loew's State Theatre, Manuel Perez, Jimmie Burns, Calvin Hendricks and the Southern California Music Company.

The benefit was directed by Mrs. Mitchell Shipley, corresponding secretary of the All American Women's Organization, and membership chairman of the Braille Institute of America.

Every dollar of the proceeds, after all expenses were deducted, such as rental of auditorium, employment of stage hands and other incidental items entailed in the printing and sale of tickets, will be used directly to promote the social, industrial and literary advancement of the blind.

Many who attended pronounced it one of the most brilliant vaudeville shows of the year.

The Braille Institute wishes to express grateful thanks to its many friends who attended the benefit and helped to make it a grand success.

GIFTS

\$1 To **\$100**

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Braille Gospel Sent to 14 Nations

Blind Readers All Around the Globe Get
Scriptures from the Braille Bible Society



A single Braille Bible ready to ship—picture the bulk of 2,549 free Bibles still needed.

TO meet an unprecedented demand for Braille Bibles in the form of requests for 2,549 volumes as gifts, the Braille Bible Society recently made a direct mail campaign for funds in the amount of \$10,000.

Encouraged by the responses to date, the Society has placed orders with its printer for small editions of the following Bible books, which have been out of stock for some time: Luke-John, I-II Samuel, Isaiah, Ezra-Job and Deuteronomy.

Herman O. Meyer, president of the Society, announces that as rapidly as funds will permit, the work of replenishing its stock will be pushed with utmost speed, until all requests have been filled, and a surplus stock added to meet future needs without unnecessary delay.

The work of supplying the Scriptures in Braille for the use of the blind is purely a philanthropic activity.

Some provision must be made to make up the difference between what it actually costs to print and distribute a Braille Bible, and what the blind reader can afford to pay for it. The Braille Bible

Society is established exclusively for this purpose.

The non-profit distribution cost of Bibles distributed by the Society in 1932 averaged \$164.85 for the complete Bible. Only a few of the 120,000 blind persons in the United States can pay even a portion of this production cost.

For many years, through voluntary contributions, the Society has supplied the Scriptures free to those unable to pay. To those better situated, a special price of \$1 a volume, or \$21 for the complete Bible, has been fixed.

On these bases the Society has in recent years distributed 11,529 volumes to blind Bible students.

While, to date, the bulk of this distribution has been to the blind of the United States, irrespective of religious affiliation, yet the Society's activities are world-wide, and accordingly, Bibles have been furnished free, or at the special rate of \$1 a volume, to the blind of Canada, New Zealand, Australia, England, Scotland, France, Italy, Spain, the Philippine Islands, Hawaii, South Africa, India and Egypt.

Requests for the 2,549 volumes on file today, or the equivalent of about 125 complete Bibles, will be filled as rapidly as funds make it possible.

For some conception as to the size of the shipment, were it possible to fill all these requests at a single mailing, magnify the accompanying picture 125 times. In weight the shipment would aggregate 10,000 pounds for Uncle Sam's parcel post department.

Contributions large or small, to sustain this work, sent to Braille Bible Society, 739 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California, will be gratefully appreciated.

A "Practical" Blind Man

Hollywood has its own names for things. "Dad" Mills is a fifty-year-old blind man, who sells papers on Wilshire Boulevard. In the M-G-M picture, "Transcontinental Bus," a blind passenger was needed. So a real blind man was sought, instead of an acted one, and "Dad" was chosen.



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Department of Missions,
National Council
Protestant Episcopal
Church

* *

Grace Cathedral
Mission of Healing

* *

National Council of
Jewish Women

* *

Robert Schalkenbach
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* *

The Christian Science
Publishing Society

* *

United States Government
(under the direction of
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and

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* *



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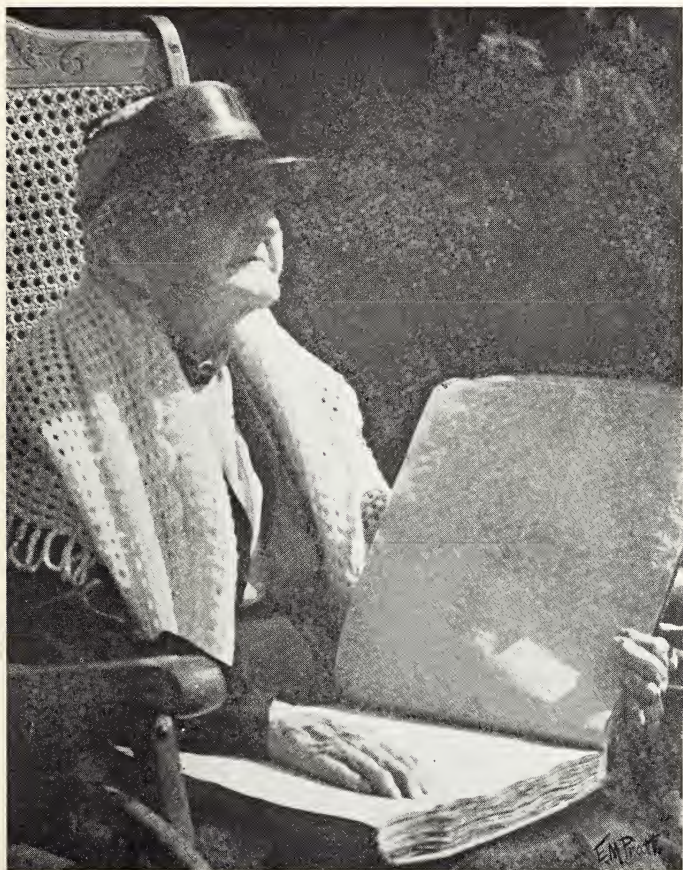
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Released on the 1st and 15th of the month, respectively, and containing articles on travel and exploration, science and invention, and the latest flashes of world-wide news, a semi-monthly news service is thereby furnished to the blind. Thousands of the blind would like to have these unparalleled, high-standard magazines. Comparatively few can afford to subscribe even at the rates which are below the publishing cost.

A subscription for LIGHT at \$3 a year pays also for one of these Braille monthlies which will be sent free to a blind reader unable to subscribe. Let your light shine in that darkness by subscribing now.

LIGHT



Reading the Scriptures in the Moon type is a blessing to the elderly blind. (See Page 8.)

—Photo by Ernest M. Pratt, North Hollywood, Calif.

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1934



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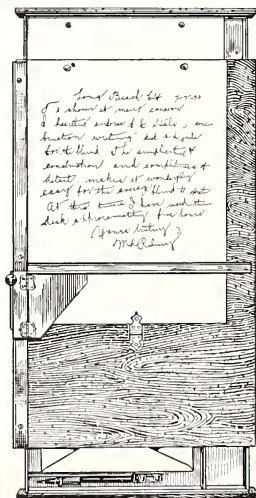
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BRAILLE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, INC.

741 North Vermont Avenue

Los Angeles, Calif.

LIGHT

To further acquaint sighted people with the ambitions and success of the blind, and enlist aid in meeting their problem of securing good reading matter.

Published bi-monthly by Braille Institute of America, Inc.
741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California

Official broadcasting station, KFAC, Los Angeles (1300 kilocycles) Thursdays, 4:45 P. M.

\$3 a year—every subscription turned into a free subscription for a Braille or Moon magazine to a needy blind reader

James H. Collins, Editor
J. Robert Atkinson, Associate Editor

Alan T. Hunt, Business Manager
Florence Horowitz,
Advertising & Circulation Manager

VOL. 6

JANUARY-FEBRUARY, 1934

No. 1

You Be the Judge!

By JAMES H. COLLINS

IMAGINE twenty elderly men, sitting in a room, waiting for you to decide their cases. It is alleged that some of them are past their years of usefulness. That the world probably holds no more happiness for them. So they are to be painlessly "Oslerized".

And you are to be their judge.

They sit patiently staring at nothing, because they are blind.

If you read about them in the morning paper, maybe you'd say, "Oh, it's just as well—they will escape a hard, ugly world."

But face to face, it is different. One of them is Booth Tarkington, who will later regain his sight. Another is Professor Frost, the astronomer, who will find new ways to be useful. The rest are just common folk. . . . * * *

Society now understands the youthful blind pretty well. It provides special education for them, and as better understanding is gained, it supports projects like the establishment of sales stands in public buildings, to set blind men and women up in self-respecting business enterprises.

But the elderly blind, who lose eyesight in declining years, are not so well understood.

There are not many of them. No accurate census has ever been made of all the blind, and a count of elderly blind alone would be difficult. After several months search, we have located a couple of thousand in the whole country, and estimate eight or ten times as many.

* * *

To the busy fellow like yourself, the idea that these elderly blind people are still interested in the world, may come as a surprise. But they are, and want to follow the news and political events in a periodical of their own, and to read books in the simplified raised letters called "Moon" type, especially invented for them.

So, it is with considerable pride that we announce a new magazine for the elderly blind, and the first book ever to be printed in America in that kind of embossing.

We ask your aid in making this new department of the Braille Institute of the greatest service to the group of blind people who need it. As usual, a subscription to "Light" will also be a subscription to either a Braille or Moon magazine, for some blind person unable to pay.

You be the judge!

Track Sports For The Blind

Not as "Stunts" But Part of an Education
For Normal Living in the Everyday World

By JAMES H. COLLINS

WHEN a blind child first comes to the New York Institute for the Blind, he is turned loose in charge of another blind child, and shown the playgrounds, or if it is raining that day, the gymnasium.

Probably he has carefully been looked after at home, to guard him against accidents. Anyway, he is usually a very small boy, or girl, of seven or so.

To his astonishment, he is led among blind children who are running and playing games, with no one to guide them. Occasionally another child bumps into him and exclaims, "Excuse me!" and hurries on, intent on the game.

In a few days, he is determined to do what other blind kids do. Outdoors, there are a merry-go-round, teeter-boards, and slides, and a cinder track with a hedge for guidance. Indoors, there are miniature railroad trains, and automobiles, and big building blocks, and playballs. Always, there are games, real rough-house games, started by the children—races, and jumps, and wrestling, and climbing.

At this school, athletics are carried to the point where, every year, the children hold a track meet, at which they contest for points against sighted children, as well as blind youngsters from other institutions.

And here rises a nice question:

How far is this healthy training for future life? Or mere "stunts" which the blind can learn for the astonishment of the sighted whose sympathies may be touched?

Almost from the beginning of education for the blind, back in the days of the Frenchman, Valentin Haüy, in Paris during the late eighteenth century, blind education has repeatedly run off into "stunts". This French pioneer, for example, needed government support, and so his blind pupils were trained to put on an exhibition before King Louis XVI. Long before efforts were made to provide education for the blind, they, themselves,

had developed "stunts" as beggars and performers, which touched the surface sympathies of sighted people, and brought charity.

So, the fine line between legitimate training for life, and mere "stunts", is ever kept in mind by those who educate the blind. Sometimes it is hard to find that line. But there is a good yardstick:

How far will a certain type of training or accomplishment serve the blind pupil in after life?

Measured by this yardstick, athletics and track contests for blind youngsters are entirely beneficial, and at the New York institution—which is the second oldest school for the blind in the United States, dating back to 1831—all athletics are under the supervision of experts, and accompanied by regular medical examinations, to guide growth and correct physical shortcomings. Muscles are evenly developed, faulty postures are exercised away, rounded shoulders are straightened up, and wholesome diet helps put on weight and add to the height of growing children.

Quite apart from health, athletics aid the blind in their association with sighted people, developing the poise and self-confidence that cause their handicap to be quickly forgotten.

* * *

Two track meets were held last spring, at which students of New York Institute contested with other blind students from Overbrook and Perkins. The New York Institute won from Overbrook by a narrow margin, 32 points to 31, while the Perkins students rolled up a smashing victory, 35½ points to 27½.

These contests include about everything found at athletic events for the sighted, such as running and walking races, short dashes, hop-step-and-jump, high jumping and the like, though some of the specialties dependent on sight, such as javelin throwing and hurdles, have to be omitted. Girls as well as boys participate, and there is great excitement



Photos courtesy New York Institute for the Education of the Blind.

among the blind as well as the sighted spectators.

Like all schools, this one puts on its shows, which range from musical recitals and plays to athletic exhibitions. Not long ago, the pupils organized an athletic drama, "A Health Revue", in which blind boys of eight nations participated.

According to the drama, Uncle Sam had invited representatives of these eight nations to demonstrate what could be done to improve health, and the different boys put their suggestions in the form of exhibitions. English boys recommended bowling, and showed how it is done. Switzerland advocated skating, and two blind boys of Swiss descent performed the "Skater's Waltz". Ireland's recommendation was dancing, in the form of the Irish jig. Japanese boys gave an exhibition of tumbling. Holland demonstrated other forms of dancing. Germany put on a gymnastic drill, Greece contributed a gymnasium scene, Sweden followed with a demonstration of gymnastic apparatus, and Uncle Sam's boys closed the show with a demonstration of simple health rules, for right living.

Germany, too, has developed track sports for the blind, and lately the new Berlin Athletic Club for the Blind held its first public contests, and a large crowd of curious spectators attracted by the event was surprised not only to see blind men and women sprinting, putting the shot, jumping and doing hand-springs, but to see them do all this a great deal better than the majority of the spectators themselves could have done it.

The idea of training the blind physically through athletics is the latest development. Paul Rosenbaum, a quiet and benevolent blind brush maker in the Municipal Institute for the Blind, conceived the idea that all the sightless folk lacked was physical training. Aside from the fact that blind persons have little opportunity for walks and physical exercise, he felt

that athletic training would teach them better than anything else to control their bodies, despite the lack of sight.

With several blind friends he founded the Athletic Club for the Blind. Thirty men and thirty women are members and they meet twice a week, at night, after their day's work, in a large hall in the northern part of Berlin. They have a trainer, who is the only person among them who can see.

The public contests were a great day for these blind athletes, and they had looked forward to it not without some fear lest they might fail to impress the spectators, or possibly be ridiculed.

But the onlookers did not laugh. The trainer, George Breitkopf, who explained that a 100-meter dash required infinite courage and concentration on the part of a blind person, was himself surprised at the performance of his pupils.

They sprinted two and two with nothing to guide them except the yells and cheers of friends and the trainer, who indicated the direction to them before starting. Two young men tied for the 100-meter world championship for the blind, in slightly more than 13 seconds.

The best shot-put was 35 feet; the best high jump was 5 feet. The champion in the wide-jump contest went over 16 feet. For the wide jump the contestants were permitted to jump off where they liked and the spot was marked in order to measure the distance.

After this initial success, the trainer plans to take his pupils over long distances of 1,500 and 3,000 meters. He will then train them for cross-country runs. The women will be taught folk dances, which Herr Breitkopf hopes to show when they have their next public meet.

The transcription of "spot" news for the blind, on Braille typewriters, especially late sports and political items, has been chosen as their social "good deeds" by five New Orleans college girls, members of the Dominican Alumnae.

Business Management Without Eyes

The Sightless Overseer Applies His Own Tests in Selecting and Directing People

By J. ROBERT ATKINSON

TWO years clerking in a country general store was the only business experience I had had, up to the time when, in 1912, I lost my eyesight, and embarked in the enterprise which, today, employs thirty to forty people, and requires direction from myself, as well as the editing of three monthly magazines for the blind, and associate editorship of "Light".

The sighted business executive may find some interest in my experience as the head of a business built up and managed without eyesight.

"How did a cowpuncher ever get into such a business?" I was asked by Mrs. Nancy Russell, wife of the late "Charley" Russell, Montana's cowboy artist.

"Well, about all I had ever done was punch cows," I answered, "so I took to punching dots in paper—seems as though I simply had to punch something!"

Really, I began in search of amusement as well as education. Also, I had always dreamed of being a writer, and a newspaper office never failed to fascinate me. To make books for the blind, whose needs I had discovered by hard experience, was the logical thing, and that led to work for their social advancement.

* * *

The work of an executive is for the most part a vocation of mind rather than body. He does not use his eyes as much as may be imagined. His success depends largely upon the ability to read human character, that he may select the right person for the job. This requires foresight, and insight into character.

The loss of sight develops latent mental resources, such as the power of discrimination and imagination. If gifted with initiative, one can discharge the duties of an executive just as well as those who depend largely upon sense testimony for guidance.

There are outward signs of individuality and character which the man without physical sight has trained himself to detect mentally, with perhaps a greater de-

gree of accuracy than the person with sight.

For example: Physical eyes cannot see honesty, loyalty, integrity and a dozen or more other things primarily essential in the successful employment of persons to fill responsible positions. Nor do profile, dress and personal appearance, which the eyes do see, afford infallible rules for discernment of human character and ability.

Seldom do I give thought to the personal appearance of an applicant for employment, or the salesman offering his wares, until I have scrutinized him carefully, and weighed him mentally. If he meets this mental test favorably, his outward appearance will be satisfactory.

Then, the executive without sight always has assistants at his call who can supply visual information.

I have found that there is no surer index to character than the human voice. Eyesight can give no clue to character expressed in the voice. The sense of hearing is more essential than sight. Voice usually expresses more individuality or personality than personal appearance. What we call personality is merely the result of culture and training, discipline and association. The speaking voice and the language of the speaker portray inherent characteristics clearer than anything else can possibly do.

The shake of the hand means much to the person without sight. Often it substitutes for a smile, and serves as an index to courtesy and refinement, revealing qualities and characteristics which are unfailing guides to eligibility for the position sought. Through these two indexes to character, the voice and the handshake, I feel well fortified for an interview, usually being repelled or impressed without further preliminaries or evidence. Thus, I am ready to test thoroughly in my own way the other qualifications necessary for satisfactory employment, such as initiative, integrity, energy and will, patience, loyalty, obedience, and the like.

Other necessary tips are not lacking to the sightless executive. For instance, he can soon determine whether or not the interviewer is a good listener. One who does all the talking is not a good listener. If he does not listen, he cannot receive orders or instruction, much less weigh their import, and so he cannot obey them, even if the heart is willing. If he cannot, or does not, obey orders, of course he cannot be loyal, even though he intends to be. I never knew a person who talks, talks, talks, continually, to be a good listener, truly obedient, dependable, competent or loyal. Yet it is obedient, loyal men that every employer, every executive is looking for, and will move heaven and earth to keep them on the pay roll.

Poise and self-control are perceptible to the executive without sight. So is honesty, although unfortunately sometimes it requires time and association for the executive to test this qualification. Here appearance is more deceptive than in any other characteristic, and if you will show me an executive, though he be a sage, who has not been deceived in this respect, and suffered because of his mistaken judgment, I'll show you an executive who never hired an employee.

No executive is so self-sufficient as to do all things flawlessly, without the assistance of others. Success or failure depends upon his ability to choose the right employees for the right jobs and to keep them there; to enforce discipline and the laws of economy, and orderly conduct and punctuality. Having done this, he will gain and keep the respect of employees high and low, and his organization will function efficiently and harmoniously.

After twelve years of experience, I contend that a man without sight can discharge the duties of an executive with no more worry, disappointment and difficulties than the sighted executive.

What he needs to see through physical eyes he can, by employing the right person for the right job, see through the eyes of others. The executive without sight has about the same problems as the sighted executive. Both must depend upon others in office and factory to help them. Both will make mistakes. Both experience limitations.

* * *

In selecting material used in the publishing business and in determining

standard of workmanship, the blind man's sense of touch is perhaps more reliable than optics. A salesman for a local paper firm declares that on several occasions my touch has been keener in determining the thickness of a sheet than a micrometer. In one instance, he declares, a micrometer test proved that I was nearer right by one thousandth of an inch, believe it or not.

My biggest job is not directing the actions and production of some thirty or forty employees in our various departments, as might be supposed. It is my policy to make them feel that we are comrades, fellow-workers. I tell them in our organization meetings that there must be an executive head to govern the affairs of all institutions, and department heads as well; and that, though such is my present calling, yet I cannot feel that they, as employees, are working for me, but **with me**—and I find it works.

It is in the capacity of editor that I feel limitations. It requires infinite patience, especially as a re-write editor, to depend on the eyes of others, and I suppose it is as trying on the secretary as on myself. It requires infinite patience, concentration and good memory, to write and edit matter for publication.

If you doubt this, try to write a letter or an article blindfolded.

Many times, before it is finished, you will be tempted to remove the blinders, and take just one look!

Last year, blind workers in Ohio, under the supervision of the state commission for the blind, turned \$20,000 worth of materials into \$40,000 worth of useful products, which found sale.

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The "New Moon" Rises

Neck-and-Neck with 1934, the First Magazine
for the Elderly Blind Starts Regular Publication

THIS month marks a new era in American journalism for the blind, with the launching of our magazine "New Moon", which is embossed in line characters, for elderly blind readers who have not mastered the dot system of Braille.

It is the first magazine of its kind ever published in America, and will appear monthly, carrying to its audience a digest of world news, an up-to-date chronicle of political events, some humor, some household helps, and an occasional short story.

Last June, a specimen edition of this magazine was published for circulation among Moon type readers, to measure the demand that exists for such a periodical. By December, more than 2,000 elderly blind persons, in widely separated parts of the country, were located, and with the securing of further funds, the circulation of "New Moon" will be extended to all these readers, who are unable to benefit by our Braille magazines.

What the Braille system is to those who receive youthful education in institutions for the blind, that is the Moon system to persons losing their sight in late adult years.

Two general systems for blind readers have been under development ever since

the needs of blind readers received attention—the dot and the line. The dot system reached its ultimate standard in Braille, and the Moon system effectively standardized the line method, so that practically no improvements have been necessary since Louis Braille, the Frenchman, and Dr. William Moon, the Englishman, finished their labors. Braille's alphabet was perfected in 1834, and that of Dr. Moon a dozen years later, in 1847.

Moon characters are not complex, nearly half of them being recognizable by anybody at first sight, and all having quick legibility under the fingers of elderly blind readers who have not acquired the sensitive touch needed for Braille, or who have infirmities in addition to blindness.

Moon type readers in this country have long had libraries to draw upon. Part of Uncle Sam's annual appropriation for the printing of literature for the blind is regularly invested in Moon books, as much as \$10,000 yearly having been spent for that purpose, and the American church organizations which publish literature for the blind are also mindful of the needs of elderly blind people, and issue part of their material in Moon type.

During 1931, more than 30,000 volumes of Moon literature were circulated among readers by libraries in the United States.

But up to the present time, all this literature has been printed in England, where the process of embossing from type has been guarded, and for the most part, Moon literature has been the work of English authors.

The blind in this country naturally want to read works by American authors as well as the English classics, and especially to read about the latest American events. They have welcomed the announcement of an American Moon type monthly magazine, reporting current news, and reflecting American sentiment and sympathy.

In England, Moon books are printed from movable type, which is distributed after printing, so that a second edition of a book which proves popular calls for the entire resetting of the type, at an expense



as great as the cost of setting up the first edition.

In the Braille Institute process, Moon printing has been adapted to stereotype plates, on the same principle used in Braille printing, and thus additional copies of a popular book can be produced at any time with no expense for resetting—merely the cost of reprinting. The Braille Institute is the only concern in America equipped for Moon printing.

Because Moon books can only be printed on one side of the page, and by reason of the greater extension of the Moon text, such books are considerably more bulky than Braille works. A heavier kind of paper is also needed. The ratio is about four to one, so that the Bible, which in Braille has been brought down to 21 volumes, runs to more than 80 volumes in the English Moon edition.

* * *

The "New Moon" magazine has a green cover, with both Moon type and ink print titles, and the emblem of the crescent new moon, which tradition associates with the American Indian and his powder horn, meaning fair or foul weather, according to its position in the sky.

The method of printing does not depart from the type size, style or line spacing which have become familiar to American Moon readers in English Moon printing, but an improvement has been made in the method of reading the lines. In English Moon books, the text has always run from left to right on one line, and then from right to left on the next line, a peculiar practice which requires the reader to work back and forth. As there seemed to be no good reason for this system, our American Moon literature is all printed with lines running from left to right, as in sighted reading. Many Moon readers have expressed their delight at this improvement which makes it possible to observe normal paragraphing, capitalization, division of words and similar printing conventions, impossible under the English system.

The new magazine is sent to the blind at special rates much below the actual publishing cost, one of the activities of the Braille Institute of America being to supply literature to the blind at prices they can afford to pay below the publishing cost, and free to those unable to pay anything at all. On account of limited funds which can be used for this purpose, the publishers find it impossible to grant

all requests for "New Moon" at the present time, and regret that until further funds are supplied by friends of the blind, many Moon readers must be disappointed.

The first book ever printed in America in Moon type is now in process in the printing department at the Braille Institute. The title, selected by the Librarian of Congress, and printed for the Government, is "Dear Enemy", by Jean Webster, author of "Daddy Long Legs".

The Girl On Our Cover

One of the grateful readers of our "New Moon" magazine will be Mrs. Annie Greene, who is seen reading her Moon Bible on our cover.

This "cover girl" was 91 years old last August, and for the past twenty-five years has lived at the Hollenbeck Home for the Aged, in Los Angeles. She was born in 1842, at Franklin Falls, New Hampshire.

Writing about Mrs. Greene, Superintendent Clarence W. Hensel tells us that, although now rather feeble, she is mentally alert, and spends most of her days in her room, reading the Bible. Suffering an attack of scarlet fever in childhood, she lost all but the ability to distinguish light from darkness, and not having learned to read before this mishap, she began by spelling out raised letters on glass bottles. She learned to read Moon type at the Hollenbeck Home, and is especially grateful to Miss Catherine Morrison, of the blind section of California's State Library, at Sacramento, for supplying her with Moon books.

Mrs. Greene's father commanded a battery of heavy artillery in the war with Mexico, 1846-48, but was not allowed to enlist until late in the Civil War, because thought too old.

Mrs. Greene is still active, dresses herself and walks around, and while her memory has grown a little hazy about past events, is trustworthy about current happenings. Thus, she will greatly enjoy an American magazine in Moon type, furnishing the news of today.

Braille Book Marks

For the convenience of sighted readers, we have printed a supply of book marks, $2\frac{1}{2}$ by $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in size, which bear the words "Companions of the Blind" in raised Braille characters, and the suggestion that if reading gives you pleasure, it will enable you to imagine the joy a good book brings to the blind. On the other side appears a summary of the work being done for the blind by the Braille Institute. Our friends are invited to write for a supply of these book marks, for their own use, and for distribution to make new friends for our work.

"Stop" Signs For Blind

In Germany, the blind and deaf are wearing conspicuous yellow armlets, with a triangle and large black dots, like the German road signs for forbidden traffic. Motorists are thus warned to be careful in passing such a person.

A Blind Prima Donna

How Genevieve Wiley Trained Her Fine Voice
for Wagner and Meyerbeer at Hollywood Bowl

By CHARLINE BELL

AT Hollywood Bowl, last summer, a wider public had the opportunity of hearing, and getting musically acquainted with, a blind singer who has risen high on the difficult ladder of musicianship, and who will go farther.

Also, the blind singer herself had her first opportunity to get acquainted with a large audience of critical listeners, and to sing with full symphony orchestra accompaniment.

And that was a real thrill.

"At first, I was bewildered by the complete orchestra, at rehearsal," says Miss Genevieve Wiley, "but Signore Bernardino Molinari, the conductor, understood my difficulty, and advised me to forget the orchestra, and sing as though I were being accompanied only by a pianist. He was most gracious, and kind, and led the accompaniment with a sympathetic understanding, and at the concert all difficulties were forgotten. I had wondered how Hollywood Bowl would seem as a concert hall, and as usual, my audience was very sympathetic, and I loved them."

Genevieve Wiley has been wholly blind since babyhood, and has made her way in music by hard work in the cultivation of a natural talent. Born in Greenwood, Indiana, she was sent to the Indiana School for the Blind, and there prepared herself for the piano, with voice as secondary study. After graduation, she came to live in California, and her home is in Pasadena. While still a mere child, she picked out tunes on the piano as soon as she could reach the keyboard, and at four,



—W. Albert Martin Studio, Pasadena.

played accompaniments for her father. At seven, she appeared in public, giving impersonations of well-known pianists.

About four years ago, she began the study of voice under the instruction of Clifford Lott, of Los Angeles, and has developed a naturally fine mezzo-soprano voice, so that she sings works like those programmed for her Hollywood Bowl recital, Elsa's "Traume" from "Lohengrin", and the aria from "Les Huguenots".

Miss Wiley is also a composer, and although entirely self-taught, has written numerous songs, two of which won praise.

While studying voice, Miss Wiley has earned her own tuition by playing the piano for dances, and as an accompanist, and as her vocal ability developed, she found concert audiences in Southern California and the Middle West. For four years, she has been guest soloist at the Neighborhood Church of Pasadena, and she was chosen by the guest artist committee of Hollywood Bowl, for the August 27 concert last summer, from the wide array of musical ability in Southern California. She has a large and diversified repertoire, and is therefore well fitted to appear in song recitals and as a soloist in concerts.

Miss Wiley's singing has depth of feeling and expression, and she possesses singular poise, maturity and reserve. Her voice is of resonant timbre, and in four years of study, she has developed her natural musicianship so that difficult compositions like Wagner's "Traume" are

rendered with a command that lifts her interpretation into the realms of genuine artistry.

Radio listeners in Southern California have recently had opportunities to hear her on the quarter-hour programs of the Braille Institute of America, over radio station KFAC, where she has graciously appeared to aid in work for the blind.

Miss Wiley uses a Braille typewriter in her studies, making copies of her songs from dictation, and transcribing orchestral scores from records. She possesses an unusually retentive memory, which has been trained to aid her in overcoming her handicap of sightlessness, and on more than one occasion, when special numbers were needed for dancing, has memorized a half-dozen from phonograph records, in a day and a half, and played them for a dancer in a motion picture studio.

Musical critics have commended her singing, and expressed the belief that she will go much farther as an artist in the years ahead.

LAW SCHOLARSHIP NEEDED

An ambitious and capable young blind student in a Southern California college wishes to study international law, after graduation in June, but is without the means to pay for tuition and living expenses at one of the California universities.

The Braille Institute of America has investigated this student, and believes that some philanthropic person, or group of persons, would be interested in providing a scholarship. Further particulars may be had by writing or telephoning the Braille Institute of America, Olympia 1121.

CAR COMPANY COURTESY

Conductors on the cars of the Los Angeles Railway Corporation, which pass our doors, have instruction not only to stop in front of the Braille Institute for any blind person visiting us, but to lead the blind passenger to our door, a service greatly appreciated by blind visitors, and ourselves.

50-YEAR-OLD BRAILLE BOOK

The other day, a Braille book was sent to the American Printing House for the Blind, at Louisville, Kentucky, to be repaired and returned to the owner, an aged blind clergyman.

It was discovered that this printing house had produced the book in 1883, so it was fifty years old. The press upon which it had been embossed was still in use, and more remarkable, the pressman who printed the volume, and the bindery foreman who bound it, were still on the staff.

Although the minister had read it many times in half a century, the book was still in excellent condition, merely needing a new cover.

PICTURE A TOUCHLESS MAN!

Picture to yourself a human being deprived, not of sight, but of touch. It is so common a thing to pity the blind, that we forget how valuable a sense they have left in touch. The only way to realize this is, to imagine a human being who has never been able to explore the world with his fingers, and learn its mysteries by contact.

The touchless man could know little about a everyday substance like glass. His sense of sight would tell him that it was transparent. But he could never know whether it was hard, or cold, or smooth, or dense in structure. With sight alone, he could never know about such properties as weight, elasticity, brittleness. He would live in absolute ignorance of air and other invisible gases.

With many objects perceptible to his sense of sight, the touchless man would see shadows. But he would have to devise clever tests to discover which was shadow and which was substance. His own reflection in water, or a mirror, would to all intents and purposes be another creature, and the world of reflection would make his everyday environment a phantasmagoria.

Briefly, all the things that he would fail to know, or discover with the greatest difficulty, are easily learned by the blind through sense of touch.

Nothing can compensate for the loss of eyesight, but the blind still have many more possibilities than would that strange imaginary being, a touchless man.

A BLIND ABOLITIONIST

While Washington was still President of the United States, he received a letter on the subject of negro slavery from a blind Englishman, Edward Rushton, who was born at Liverpool in 1755, and lost his sight during a slaving voyage to the coast of Africa.

Bushton did not lose his memory of the horrors of the slave traffic as he had seen it, and upon returning home, became an active abolitionist, fighting an evil which was then, even in England, regarded as a matter of course.

In fact, he started a newspaper, the "Herald", to disseminate his views, which were thought so radical that he did not make a successful editor. Whereupon, he turned bookseller, and also became a poet, writing verse that had wide circulation in his day.

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A "New Deal" in Braille Bibles

Large Edition Planned, to Meet Demands to
the End of 1934—And Cut Costs Over 66 Percent

BIBLES in raised print for the blind have been published for more than one hundred years, but still the demand greatly exceeds the resources of various agencies engaged in supplying the Scriptures to the blind, a work which is humanitarian in character.

For many years, the Braille Bible Society, located at 739 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California, has devoted its resources exclusively to this commendable work.

Thousands and thousands of volumes of the King James Version in Braille have been distributed to the blind throughout the world free or at prices much below the publishing cost.

Within the last year, the Society has received requests for 3,078 volumes, from those unable to pay.

Of this number, 739 volumes have been supplied, leaving unfilled requests in the amount of 2,339 volumes. These will be supplied free just as soon as funds make it possible.

This unprecedented demand has challenged the Society's resourcefulness, and the challenge has been taken up by a plan which it is hoped will meet a hearty response on the part of charitably minded persons.

Limited funds have restricted the placement of orders large enough to take advantage of quantity production.

Consequently, the average distribution cost of Braille Bibles to the Society in the past has approximated \$8 a volume, or about \$160 for the complete Bible.

If funds were available to print, at a single run, the 2,339 volumes necessary to supply the unfilled requests, and an additional quantity sufficient to meet the anticipated demands for the year 1934, the production cost could be reduced to about \$2.50 a volume, or \$51.50 for a complete Bible.

This is truly a "New Deal" in Braille Bibles. When put into effect, it will cut costs over 66 percent!

Think of it! A reduction from about \$8 a volume, or \$160 a Bible, to \$2.50 a

volume, or \$51.50 a Bible—merely through savings realized in increased quantity production.

If the plan appeals to you, who read this article, why not send a contribution to the Society in any amount, but preferably for a sum equal to the cost price of a complete Bible in Braille, bound in 21 volumes, to be supplied free, as your outright gift, to some lonely blind reader?

To accomplish this plan \$10,000 must be available to the Society immediately.

Consider the saving to be realized—and the service to be rendered!

Isn't it worthy of a little personal sacrifice?

The Society believes it is, and it believes that you, who read this statement of our plan, will want to help. Contributions, large or small, will be appreciated. Make them payable to Braille Bible Society, 739 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

Please send your contribution now. A receipt for it will be mailed promptly.

You will enjoy the satisfaction of helping to put through a "New Deal" in Braille Bibles.

Reads Braille With Tongue

Braille books and magazines would seem to offer little entertainment to a blind man without arms. Yet William H. Kruse, of the Christian Record Benevolent Association reports that there is such a handicapped man in Kansas City who reads Braille with his tongue. He spends six hours a day reading, and has gone through the Braille Bible four times, and through favorite chapters many more times.

Blind Girl Wins Oxford Honors

For the first time at Oxford University, in England, a blind girl has won first honors in a final examination. She is Miss Hazel Winter. At seventeen, while a pupil at Chorley Wood College, a public school for the blind, she won an open scholarship at Oxford. After entering the university she had to undergo an operation for appendicitis, but a few days later she won high marks in a test. All the text books required for her work have been translated into Braille for her.

Directory of Business and Professional Blind

Maintained by the Bureau of Better Business for the Blind,
Braille Institute of America, Inc.

Although the persons listed here are without sight, they do not wish to advertise that fact, nor solicit patronage because of it.

All they ask is, that the public give them a chance to serve it on a strictly business basis.

Like all other progressive business and professional blind, they ask only for the chance to earn a living, and are courageously persevering to that end.

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Already, We Are Making 1934 A Better Year

With the Help of Its Friends, the Braille Institute is Expanding its Work for the Blind

IN this, the first issue of "Light" for 1934, the Braille Institute of America wishes for its many friends and contributors, and the blind of the nation, a prosperous and happy year.

May we all soon be able to see a silver lining to the dark clouds of depression which have threatened the world's social and economic structure since 1929.

May we all soon be able to think of these days as testing times—as days of character building, for the individual, as well as for the nation.

Throughout history, new eras in civic, social and economic life have been ushered in through trials and deprivation. And chaotic conditions, rightly valued and overcome, have always been stepping-stones for the human race. "Sweet are the uses of adversity," says Shakespeare, "which, like the toad, ugly and venomous, wears yet a precious jewel in his head."

If we, who enjoy the use of all our faculties, have felt so deeply the burden of these trying times, how much greater must be the weight on those handicapped by blindness! The Braille Institute of America, through its well-organized staff and many activities, has afforded an effective expression for the benevolence of those who have taken thought for the nation's blind. And the Institute wishes to thank its many friends and contributors who have made it possible to maintain, without undue curtailment, its many activities in welfare work for the blind.

These activities include the publication in Braille of two monthly magazines, at special rates to the blind, below the publishing cost; and the launching of a third monthly, printed in Moon type for the blind. This Moon type is especially designed for the elderly blind who have found it difficult to master Braille. More than 2,000 names of Moon readers are on the list to receive the magazine as soon as funds make it possible to supply it.

In addition, many good books, running the full gamut of literature, have been printed or sponsored by the Braille Institute. Among these, are titles on sales-

manship, journalism, commercial law, general insurance, public speaking, parliamentary practice, oral and written English, social and political science, and other subjects having to do with the vocations followed by the blind for livelihood.

These books have been distributed free to various libraries throughout the country, whence they circulate free to blind borrowers wherever they may live. Within the last year the Braille Institute has established a free lending library of books and magazines.

The blind who wish instruction in Braille and Moon reading, are increasing so rapidly that another teacher must be added just as soon as funds make it possible.

The Braille Institute of America asks your help in making its activities better known. Indeed, it needs your constructive, cooperative support in order that its service to the blind may not be impaired.

Founded on the firm rock of integrity and benevolence, it ranks among the leading institutions in the field of philanthropy. National and international in its literary service to the blind, with headquarters in Los Angeles, it stands on the Pacific Coast as a lighthouse to all who walk in physical darkness, and its establishment and existence is a credit to the commonwealth.

The Braille Institute welcomes your investigation as to its responsibility and conduct, to the end that you may recommend it to your friends as a philanthropic institution for the advancement of the blind, that merits their moral and financial support.

At a recent entertainment given in Sussex, England, to emphasize the widening field of opportunity opening to the blind, guests included a blind doctor of music, basketmakers, a tea agent, piano tuners and repairers, machine knitters, a shorthand typist, journalists, Braille printers and a gardener.

A new mystery story in Braille was recently received by the New Orleans public library on the same day that the ink-print edition arrived, demonstrating that blind readers are getting prompter service in books meant chiefly for entertainment.

Seen With Half an Eye

Sister was
bumped off
As was her
beau—
They thought
aloud
At a movie
show.

Judge: "What's the charge against this man, officer?"

Cop: "Arson, Your Honor, burning up the road."

* * *

"How did you compile your great dictionary?" the lexicographer was asked.

"Oh, it was something like having a quarrel with one's wife—one word led to another."

* * *

Small Boy: "What is college bred, pop?"

Pop (with son in college): "They make college bred, my son, from the flower of youth and the dough of old age."

* * *

"Can you type?"

"Well, I use the Columbus system."

"What's that?"

"I discover a key then land on it."

* * *

Home—That little-used building which stands on the same lot with the garage.

Hubby: "My dear, you must economize. If I were to die where would you be?"

Wifey: "I'd be all right. The question is—where would you be?"

* * *

It's easy to tell one sex from the other. A man won't take your last cigarette.

* * *

"Where do you live?" the judge asked the first tramp.

"No fixed abode," was the reply.

The judge then turned to tramp number two, who was slightly deaf.

"And you—where do you live?"

"On the floor right above the other fellow."

* * *

A man is something that can see a pretty ankle three blocks away while driving a motor car in a crowded street, but will fail to notice, in the wide, open countryside the approach of a locomotive the size of a school-house and accompanied by a flock of 42 box cars.

* * *

"Where were you born?" asked the judge, examining the applicant for naturalization. "Sweden," was the answer. "What part?" "All of me." "Why did you leave Sweden?" "I couldn't bring it with me." "Where were your forefathers born?" "I got only one father." "Where is Washington?" "He is dead."

* * *

A "match" they called it when they wed;

A sporting term we've often read.

Perhaps that's why in later days,

Their lawyers used a sporting phrase,

"Tomorrow; Jones vs. Jones" they said.

To Assist Blind Veterans

Hard hit by the Economy Bill, which has reduced soldier pensions of \$40 and \$50 a month to as little as \$6, and left many blind ex-service men with no pension whatever, veterans at the Soldiers' Home, Sawtelle, California, have organized Blind Post No. 2, D.V.U.S., composed entirely of totally blind veterans of all wars. The purpose is to assist needy blind veterans, and get a special bill passed by Congress which will provide adequate maintenance for blind veterans who wish to live outside the Soldiers' Home.

The commander of this post, William J. Sterling, is a Congressional medal man. Every blind veteran in the home is a member, thirty-five in all, with about fifteen from outside. Those interested should write to W. J. Sterling, Box 34, National Military Home, California. Meetings are held each Wednesday in the Solarium of Company 14. Veterans in other homes are urged to organize at no expense to themselves. Numerical strength is necessary. There are about 1500 veterans who come under this classification in the U. S.

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Now, suppose you were treated like a

kid sent to bed just as the hair-raising serial starts on the radio.

That is the way the blind are treated, as far as sitting down and reading the latest news for themselves is concerned, unless they can get one of our Braille magazines, or our new Moon type magazine for the elderly blind.

If you saw a real live kid being packed off to bed when the radio thriller started, you'd want to plead for him to stay up.

If you want to plead for the blind, who are as eager as yourself to follow the great national thriller now running, just send me three dollars, and I'll send you "Light" for a whole year, and also send a Braille or Moon magazine to some blind pal who can't afford to pay for it.

After all, the blind are just like us—big kids. Yours expectantly,

The Subscription Man

A Blind Jewish Scholar

Among sixteen students who lately received their M.A. degrees at the Hebrew University, in Jerusalem, was Nissan Meckler, who since 1914 has been an inmate of the Institute for the Jewish Blind in Jerusalem.

Graduating with highest honors, with Hebrew literature as his major subject, Nissan Meckler completed his entire course at the university while earning his livelihood as a basket-maker in common with his fellows at the Institute. With the age of the graduates at the Hebrew University ranging from twenty-five to thirty years, Nissan Meckler, who is thirty years old, is in no way behind his comrades, even in age, so far as his achievements are concerned.

All courses at the university are given in Hebrew and much of the material available in text books in other languages has not been published in that language. For example, the students in the philosophy class are preparing their own text books, and under the supervision of the head of the department, they have edited a series of philosophical treatises in Hebrew. These and other text books were

made available to Mr. Meckler through the kindness of his fellow-students, who read to him some of the papers and books in the various courses for which he was unable to obtain the texts.

German Braille text books, sent from the Library Institute at Marburg, Germany, helped to fill the gaps, for Mr. Meckler not only knows Polish and Hebrew, but also English and German, and is an expert reader of Braille in Hebrew and Latin characters.

Instead of a Braille typewriter, Mr. Meckler does his work on an ordinary Hebrew typewriter, and filled out his examination papers in this way, after the examiners had read the questions to him. Mr. Meckler attended seminars and courses at the university after he was released from his day's work at the Institute for the Blind. Gifted with a remarkable memory, he compiled his notes on the various lectures by dictating them to some of his fellow students, who offered to help him.

Coming to Palestine when he was nineteen years old, Mr. Meckler also completed his secondary school education there as an extension student at the Hebrew High School in Jerusalem.

Monthly Magazines for the Blind

THE BRAILLE MIRROR

A panorama of world affairs printed in Braille

Subscription rate to institutions: \$3 a year

Special to the blind: . . . \$2 a year

MARCH OF EVENTS

A digest of world news

Subscription rate to institutions: \$3 a year

Special to the blind: . . . \$2 a year

NEW MOON

A digest of current events in Moon type

Subscription rate to institutions: \$5 a year

Special to the blind: . . . \$2.50 a year

Thousands of the blind would like to have these unparalleled, high-standard magazines. Comparatively few can afford to subscribe even at the rates which are below the publishing cost.

A subscription for LIGHT at \$3 a year pays also for one of these monthlies which will be sent free to a blind reader unable to subscribe. Let your light shine in that darkness by subscribing now.

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in M-G-M's

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John Gilbert

and All Star Cast

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LIGHT



Playing chess with scorers adapted from clocks, for the use of the blind.

—Photo courtesy National Institute
for the Blind, London, England.

MARCH-MAY, 1934



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THE Braille Institute of America, Inc., was chartered under the laws of the State of California on the 100th anniversary of the Braille system of printing for the blind, as a memorial to Louis Braille, of France, (1806-1852), who made it possible for the blind to write as well as read.

This explains the prominence given to the word Braille in the Institute's name, and the practical omission therefrom of any word which has a direct bearing on welfare work for the blind.

The Institute is a national non-profit agency devoted to the social, industrial and literary advancement of the blind, with headquarters at 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, California.

It was established to acquire the assets and activities of the Universal Braille Press, founded in 1919 by J. Robert Atkinson, with the assistance of philanthropic friends.

Governed by a board of trustees elected annually by the members, and established to receive and expend gifts and endowments for the welfare of the blind, it ranks among the nation's leading institutions in the field of philanthropy, thereby affording an outlet for the benevolence of all who wish to help those handicapped by physical blindness.

The nation's blind population is esti-

mated at 120,000, of whom 90 per cent lost their sight after reaching maturity. To the latter, the doors of tax-supported schools for the education of the youthful blind are closed.

Blind adults everywhere are appealing to the Institute for help and counsel. They recognize in the Braille Institute, founded by a blind man, a bond of sympathy and leadership on which to anchor hope.

The Braille Institute of America's activities include:

Sponsorship of books and magazines printed in Braille and Moon types, on a non-profit basis, and free to the blind unable to pay.

A Bureau of Social Welfare and Better Business for the Blind, its object being to find employment or business locations for the able-bodied blind in the trades and professions; to assist them by way of loans until they are successfully established, to the end that they may become self-supporting. The Bureau also assists the blind who for good reasons cannot be successfully rehabilitated for gainful occupations and who may not be eligible for governmental aid.

Maintenance of a Free Library, stocked with embossed books and magazines, including fiction and works on the various vocations followed by the blind. The Library serves the blind of the entire nation.

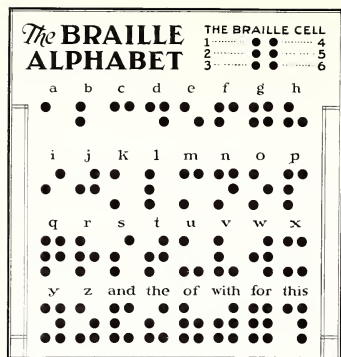
Free instruction in reading and writing Braille, and in Moon reading.

Scholarships for vocational and higher education in branches of the trades and professions.

The Institute publishes three monthly magazines as follows: "March of Events," a digest of world news, printed in Braille and published monthly; "The Braille Mirror," a panorama of world affairs, printed in Braille and published monthly; "New Moon," a monthly magazine printed in Moon type, containing a digest of current events and dedicated to the Moon readers of America.

The Institute's activities are sustained through voluntary contributions and the sale of memberships, as follows: Participating member, \$1 per annum; Patron member, \$5 per annum; Contributing member, \$25 per annum; Associate member, \$50 per annum; Sustaining member, \$100 per annum; Life member, \$1,000.

The Braille Institute of America, Inc. has only one address, which is 741 North Vermont Avenue, Los Angeles, and it is designated by no other name. It has no branch offices and is not affiliated with any other agency for the blind.



THE Braille "cell" of six dots provides 63 possible combinations, each of which is used. By this means not only the alphabet, but all punctuation signs, contractions of words and parts of words, and notation for mathematics, chemistry, and music may be written. The diagram shows only a small portion of the characters used.

A SYSTEM of raised type was invented by Dr. William Moon of England, in 1847. Consisting of letters based on the Roman characters, numerals similar to Arabic numerals, and a very few contractions, the type is readily perceived by the untrained finger. Thus it is valuable to the many blind who lose their sight in middle age.

Bibles for the Blind

(King James Version)

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VOL. 6

MARCH-MAY, 1934

No. 2

The Lucky Lady

By JAMES H. COLLINS

SOMETIMES a fellow gets all tangled up in this Machine Age.

Sorry for the days into which he has been born, and longing to go back to the glory that was Greece, and the grandeur that was Rome.

Fed up on the energy that is Chicago! We all get that way, now and then, and sometimes a little rest will set us right, and again a change of scene, or even work.

And then, maybe, we run across somebody who can just work a magic Presto—change! in our viewpoint, like the woman who wrote the little book "The Lucky Lady."

* * *

For years, Margaret Prescott Montague had poor vision. And then that partial vision began to fade, so even her commonest joys were going, like gardening, when her flowers seemed to say to each other, "Hold tight now, here comes Margaret—she's as like as not to pull us out for weeds."

Once, walking along the street, she climbed over a dim obstacle, and turning, discovered that she had climbed right over a little boy's express wagon.

Besides, she was almost complete-

ly deaf, and that, too, led to experiences that were funny, because she tells them. But her life was definitely headed for a very dark pocket, and there was nothing funny about that, at all.

And then came machines, an operation and glasses that gave back her partial sight, and a hearing device that enabled her to associate normally with people. In no other age of the world could she have been rescued, and only within the past few years in our own Machine Age.

* * *

"What has come over the spirit of man today," she asks, "that he should lament over his own time in history—casting wistful glances back to a past that was no better than it should be? I have little patience with this attitude. We are here today, aren't we? Not back in the golden age of Greece, nor the Italian Renaissance. Then why not be friends with it, rather than mourners over it, even if it does present its own peculiar difficulties? Or, if we cannot be friends, let us at least take it lustily by the throat and choke some blessings out of it."

"The Lucky Lady, by Margaret Prescott Montague, Boston, Houghton Mifflin Company, \$1.

Blind Players In Comedy

From a Benefit Performance, this Sightless Group Has Gone on to the Professional Stage

By JAMES H. COLLINS

THE theater is a place where illusions are created and sold. What more subtle illusion can there be than a comedy presented by blind players, with such fidelity to the story that theatre-goers quickly forget that they are being entertained by sightless men and women, and settle down to a normal evening of laughter and applause?

This was the ideal set for themselves by the Pasadena Braille Players, last year, when they came together to discuss the serious project of a theatre company to be made up entirely of sightless actors and actresses, and to make their living on the stage.

Their first play, presented as a "feeler," was the one-act "An Hour in June," by blind Louis G. Siggons, and although the prime mover in the enterprise, James Townsend, accidentally struck a table and lost two of his front teeth a few hours before the curtain rose, the audience at this first presentation, in Pasadena, quickly forgot that the players could not see and acted its own important part as a normal audience. The trial balloon was a distinct success and encouraged the group to greater things.

The next play selected is a three-act comedy, "The Intimate Strangers," by an author who has had his experience of blindness — Booth Tarkington. This is now advanced to the production stage, and after a first performance in Pasadena, if successful, will be taken on tour.

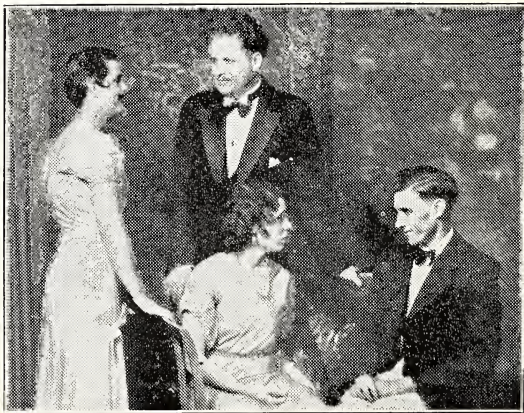
The Braille Players in the order of their appearance on the stage in this comedy

are James Townsend, Harry "Rube" Haskell, Frances Brown, Mary Flynn, James Gray, Genevieve Wiley and Maude Ellington.

James Townsend is thirty, and lost his sight eight years ago, when a young man of twenty-two. He has lived in California since boyhood, and before blindness, attended the Pasadena High School. He started singing at nineteen, learned to play saxophone and clarinet, and after blindness attended the Pasadena Junior College and continued his voice studies.

"The idea of this venture seems to have originated with me," he says. "I am chairman of the program committee of the Pasadena Braille Club. Last year our club was faced with the necessity for raising a hundred dollars to pay for transportation of members to our meetings. If we are not able to get some of the older members to the meetings, it would leave a gap of social contact in their few remaining years on earth.

"So, an entertainment was arranged with the assistance of Genevieve Wiley,



Four of the blind Pasadena players—Mary Flynn, James Townsend, (standing); Frances Brown, James Gray.

the blind singer, and we decided on the ambitious project of presenting the one-act play by Louis Siggons. This was a success beyond our hopes, artistic as well as financial, and it led to the plan of presenting a full-length play. If we meet with an encouraging reception from the public, we will make our production the basis of a professional theatrical enterprise, and tour adjacent cities, and perhaps the state. That was the foundation upon which we built."

Harry "Rube" Haskell was for twenty years an acrobat before losing his sight, and well-known to vaudeville audiences over the country, an Orpheum headliner and former room-mate of Al Jolson. Genevieve Wiley and Mary Flynn have both sung in Hollywood Bowl. Frances Brown is the leading lady, Mr. Townsend leading man, and James Gray the juvenile lead.

In preparing a play, each part is written in Braille, with cues, and during the first rehearsals the players read their lines. Then movement is added, as the characters walk through their parts, finding their way about through the positions of furniture and rugs. Every effort was made in selection of players to minimize the sense of blindness, and rehearsal, with the final stage makeup, still further overcomes this audience hazard. Still another resource lay in the choice of a comedy, to make things easier for the audience, and eliminate even a suggestion of handicap in the players.

"Our directors deserve great credit for our work," Mr. Townsend adds, "for upon them rested the responsibility of making us appear as normal men and women in every action. Helen Henry was our supervising director, and goes on the road with us. We also had the benefit of the experience of Tom Henry, of the Pasadena Community Playhouse, and were coached by some of the qualified dramatic teachers furnished by the United States Government under the Emergency Relief Administration. So, you see, we had excellent preparation.

"We were being considered, last year, for a series of motion picture 'shorts,' and I was considered for the feature part in 'Blind Rafferty,' but the motion picture director who had us in view was unable to carry out his plans, by reason of a change in studio organization.

"If our efforts in the present enterprise

meet with success, we have further plans. I contemplate establishing a 'little theatre' in Pasadena, or wherever else it can be done to advantage, to bring together the highest types of blind players. I shall endeavor to bring into the group people with normal facial expressions, who look entirely normal, and try to establish a course of training to teach blind persons how to control their faces, and express emotions. People who have never seen do not have as expressive faces as those who have learned by seeing. If the movies are interested, we will try to furnish blind players whose faces do not show their handicap.

"This is practical work, for it is detrimental to have any heavy sense of sympathy directed at us by audiences.

"Also, I have secured a one-act play, taking about twenty minutes, in which the cast of two men and four women must all be singers as well as actors. This we intend to prepare, in rehearsals, so that it can be offered in vaudeville. The dramatic idea is somewhat original, the music is specially written, and I believe it can be developed into an ideal vaudeville skit."

In Cleveland, Ohio, another group of nine blind people, the Grasselli Players, lately produced "On the Hiring Line," at a benefit performance to aid the Dunn bill now in Congress to place blind men and women in news-stands in Federal buildings. The cast included Martin Ribar, Leonore Marquis, I. P. Silverman, Helen Schratz, Harold Down, Carrie Crittenden, Lawrence Heringhaus, Margaret McDonough and John Knall, and was specially coached by the sighted director Robert Delmege, who has devised ingenious methods for prompting blind players, and who undertook to prove to Cleveland theatre-goers that blind people can perform plays as agreeably as sighted actors. One of Mr. Delmege's devices is to lay ropes under the stage carpet to guide the blind actors.

In Chicago, too, a group of blind players, the Braille Theatre Guild, has presented one-act plays like Louis N. Parker's "The Minuet," and Alice Brown's "Joint Owners in Spain," under the direction of Miss Jane Willis, a blind woman.

American (in French restaurant): "Waiter, bring me some French fried potatoes."

Garcon: "Sorry, sir, but we don't cook American dishes."

They Fought Worse Than Blindness

The Handicap of Partial Blindness Was Overcome

By the American Historians, Prescott and Parkman

By JOHN MAPPELBECK

A HARVARD student mischievously threw a piece of bread at a fellow student. The latter was blinded in one eye, and all his life had a handicap of weak sight in the other eye.

But it happened more than 100 years ago, and today we have a splendid series of historical narratives, the work of a partly-blinded man, that class so little known to people whose sympathy with total blindness is quick and practical. William H. Prescott's "Conquest of Mexico" and "Conquest of Peru" are some of the books written under difficulties approximating actual blindness.

Again, a Harvard student, twenty years old, suffered a breakdown which left his eyes so weak that for many years he could work only an hour or two daily. But this partly-blinded scholar left another series of historical narratives that rival Prescott's works, though they are in an entirely different field—the story of Colonial America. Begin with the capstone of Francis Parkman's work, "Montcalm and Wolfe," and then read back toward the early French pioneers, and you will live in a period that Parkman was first to interpret as world history. It has been called "The epic of the Anglo-Saxon genius."

* * *

Both Prescott and Parkman wrote with the aid of apparatus designed for the blind, and as Prescott's writing life was lived between 1826 and 1859, and that of Parkman between 1847 and 1893, there were no dictaphones or accomplished stenographers or typewriters to assist them, and even the

devices for enabling blind persons to write longhand were probably crude.

Prescott found the work of writing a severe strain upon his one eye, and so adopted "a writing case such as is used by the blind, which enabled me to commit my thoughts to paper without the aid of sight, serving me equally well in the dark as in the light. The characters thus formed made a near approach to hieroglyphics, but my secretary became expert in the art of deciphering."

Parkman sometimes wrote with the aid of a frame with parallel wires for guiding the pencil which enabled him to write with shut eyes, and sometimes through the help of his sister, taking dictation, or with assistants paid out of a small competence left by his father.

But writing was a small part of their difficulties, for each wrote in fields where vast amounts of manuscript had to be read and digested, much of it in French or Spanish.

It was during one of his periods of total blindness that Prescott received from Spain a mass of material for his "History of Ferdinand and Isabella," and in his disabled condition, with these treasures



"Storming the Heights of Abraham," from Parkman (above), and "The Attack Upon Montezuma's Stronghold," from Prescott (below).

—Courtesy Ginn & Company.

lying around him, he was "like one pining from hunger in the midst of abundance." By practice, he was able to understand different foreign languages when read to him by a secretary.

Parkman was ill much of his life, as well as threatened with total blindness, and had, if anything, the more difficult field in which to gather his materials. He made several voyages to France, and employed copyists to transcribe and translate important documents, and read, or had read to him, innumerable books, journals, letters and manuscripts. During the hour or two daily that he could work, he listened to this reading and made notes on his parallel-wire apparatus.

* * *

While the number of totally blind persons is approximately known through the Census, and various estimates, no figures are available for the partly-blind. These range from those who are just able to distinguish light from darkness, down to persons with defective vision or color blindness.

The partly-blind person is often more pitiable than one whose vision has completely disappeared, and this phase of blindness is well shown by the experiences of both Prescott and Parkman.

For they never knew, at any time in their lives, when the precious remainder of sight left to them would utterly vanish. So, for forty years in the case of Prescott, and fifty years in Parkman's case, they struggled on with gigantic intellectual tasks, literally fighting for every hour of working time. For one extended period Parkman could not work at all, and twice in his life Prescott was unable to use his eye at all for reading or writing.

Prescott was born in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1796, and trained in the law, like his father before him, but on leaving college traveled in England, France and Italy. Here he decided to devote himself to literature, abandoning law and forming splendid projects for writing books. Soon he found his field in the story of the Spanish conquest of America, and began with his history of Ferdinand and Isabella. This was followed by the stories of Cortez and Pizarro, and when he died, in 1859, he left three volumes of an uncompleted history of Phillip II of Spain.

Parkman's life work was planned while he was still a boy, and a year before he

died, he completed the last volume in the great series which begins with "Pioneers of France in the New World," and concludes with "The Conspiracy of Pontiac." Incidentally, he wrote a youthful account of "The Oregon Trail," and a "Book of Roses," in which he recorded his knowledge of flower-growing. He was born in Boston in 1823, and died in 1893.

The whole series of Parkman's historical narratives is the story of America before the forests were cut away, when French and English were battling for the possession of North America, and the conflict was complicated by such issues as Catholic against Protestant, Latin against Anglo-Saxon, Feudalism against Democracy, and Stone Age Savagery against Civilization. The pages of Parkman are crowded with figures like La Salle, Frontenac, Champlain, Wolfe, Montcalm, Marquette and the young Washington, and for human interest and calm historic judgment and perspective, he is ranked by critics first among American historians.

Both Prescott and Parkman were men of exceptional ability, and had fine educations; advantages before their handicap was realized and faced.

Their life stories should be a constant reminder that the partial blind need help, and deserve sympathetic support, in their struggle to be independent, useful members of society.

Blind Chess Players

The two blind men playing chess, on our cover, are keeping track of their men on the board by an improved game scorer, made out of clocks, and sold by the National Institute for the Blind, London, England. By means of raised dots, and hands with special raised markings, each player keeps informed, and is able to play with a sighted opponent. The device can be used for bridge as well as chess, and adapted to other games.

The chess expert, Edward Lasker, plays "blind," though sighted, being told about moves as they are made, and carrying all the moves in his mind, and directing the plays.

The late Joseph Pulitzer, publisher of the New York "World," could play several chess games at once after losing his sight, says Arthur Brisbane. Once, crossing the ocean, he walked up and down talking to another chess expert, and as he passed directed his moves in a match with a fairly good player, to whom as a handicap Mr. Pulitzer had given his queen, before the game began. As he passed he would say to his secretary, Mr. Butes, afterward Lord Northcliff's secretary, "has he moved, Mr. Butes?" Then direct his own next move, and a little later say "checkmate in two moves" and so it always turned out.

Uncle Sam, Librarian to the Blind

How Our Government Selects, Publishes and
Circulates Books in Both Braille and Moon

THE blind of this country have a good friend at Washington, in "Uncle Sam," who is represented by Dr. H. H. B. Meyer, who is Director at the Library of Congress of "Project, Books for the Blind." It is under Dr. Meyer's guidance that the annual Government appropriation of \$100,000 is spent for books in Braille and Moon type, and through his long experience as a librarian that the blind readers of this country, from Watertown, Massachusetts, to Honolulu, receive books that educate and train as well as entertain.

So that sighted people may get an idea of the raised letter reading published for the blind by our Government, we give the list of Braille titles only for 1932-33. In addition, Moon books are published, and the blind are served through twenty-two large libraries, receiving the books they ask for through the mails, postage free both ways. These libraries are at Albany, Atlanta, Austin, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Honolulu, New Orleans, New York, Omaha, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Sacramento, Saginaw, St. Louis, Salt Lake City, Seattle, Washington and Watertown.

The titles are selected by librarians and others interested in choosing books that the blind want to read or study, and are printed by presses like the printing department at the Braille Institute of America, on bids. The Braille Institute of America has lately become equipped to emboss books in the Moon type which have until now always been printed in England, and is the only press in this country so equipped.

Dr. Meyer has spent nearly thirty-five years in library work, starting at the Pratt Institute Library School, after graduation from Columbia, in New York, where he was born, and after a career in engineering. He joined the Library of Congress in 1905, as Chief of the Periodical Division; then became Chief of the Order Division; then Chief Bibliographer; and in 1921, Director of the Legislative

Reference Service. He has compiled many bibliographies on social, economic and political questions, and has a personal library of more than 10,000 volumes relating to fine printing in America, and also first editions of American and English authors.



Snapshot of Dr. Meyer (left) taken in Washington, with J. Robert Atkinson.

So, with the co-operation of librarians who are in constant contact with blind readers over the whole nation, Uncle Sam's service of Braille and Moon literature is in expert hands, and the titles published come as near as is humanly possible to satisfying the needs of this public, which is small in numbers compared with the vast sighted reading public, and yet just as exacting and critical

Braille Books Published by the Library of Congress 1932-33

Philosophy and Psychology

Dimmet.....What We Live By, 2v.
Lodge.....Phantom Walls, 3v.
Riggs.....Just Nerves, 1v.

Religion and Ethics

Fosdick.....As I see Religion, 1v.
Grenfell.....What the Church Means to Me, 1v.
Osler.....A Way of Life, 1v.
Riggs.....Intelligent Living, 2v.

Hebrews

Sachar.....A History of the Jews, 6v.

Description and Travel

Byrd.....Little America, 4v.
Childers.....From Siam to Suez, 2v.
Cohen-Portheim.....England, The Unknown Isle, 2v.
Hudson.....Afioot in England, 2v.
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Every Cent Will Go for Service

The Braille Institute's 1934 Budget Devotes
All Contributions to Actual Work for the Blind

PURSUANT to call, the annual meeting of the Braille Institute of America, Inc., was held at the Institute's offices March 6, 1934, to elect Trustees for the ensuing year, and to review the various activities maintained exclusively for the social, industrial and literary advancement of the blind.

The following Board of Trustees was elected:

Robert A. Odell, J. Robert Atkinson, W. H. Kindig, Arthur L. Sonderegger, P. A. Be-Hanneseey, Frank C. Collier, Edwin L. Gardner, Franklin Lowney and R. W. Whomes.

The Braille Institute of America, Inc., is now passing its first five-year milepost along the highway of welfare service to the blind. But, when remembering that the Institute was organized and chartered for the purpose of acquiring the assets, and extending the activities, of the Universal Braille Press, an unincorporated, philanthropic enterprise which was founded in 1919, the institution has an historical background of fifteen years of progressive, constructive service.

To record all of these activities, and the benefits enjoyed by the blind of the world, as a result of this service, would be impossible in a report of this character. But let us, in passing, list a few of the outstanding contributions of the institution and its affiliated activities:

Improvement and refinement of printing equipment, which prompted the following significant remark by a prominent librarian in the East: "The institution that has taken the blindness out of books for the blind."

Development of printing on both sides of the paper, technically called, "inter-pointing," by which both volume and production cost have been reduced from thirty to forty percent over the old method of printing on one side of the paper, only; thus earning the distinction of being the pioneer publishers in America of Braille **books** printed on both sides of the paper.

Publishers of the first secular monthly

magazine in Braille whose postal entry permits advertising, and the first Braille magazine ever published wherein the blind may voice their convictions.

Establishment of the first bureau of social welfare and better business for the blind.

Initiation of a plan for a Federal appropriation of \$100,000 a year, to supply literature to the adult blind of the nation. As originators of this plan, though the bill which finally became law was not the actual bill introduced by the Braille Institute, it may take the credit for the legislation which is the equivalent of an endowment of two million five hundred thousand dollars invested in bonds and securities, paying four percent interest.

Development of equipment to print books and magazines in the Moon type, thereby becoming pioneers in that industry in America.

Creation of a home teaching department to give instruction in reading and writing Braille, and in the mastery of Moon reading, ordinary typewriting, dictaphone operating, etc.

Creation and establishment of a free lending library of literature for the blind, printed in Braille and Moon types.

Initiation of a revolutionary plan for the development of long-playing phonograph records in the sound reproduction of literature, called "talking books."

Launching of "New Moon," a monthly magazine printed in the Moon type, dedicated to the Moon readers of America.

Undoubtedly this step forward in Moon journalism, embracing the development of the printing equipment and the subsequent launching of a magazine in the Moon type, is the outstanding contribution to the literary advancement of the blind, not only for this year, but also in the history of printing for the blind since its inception in America 100 years ago. There are thousands and thousands of the blind in this country who, because of advanced years and infirmities, other than blindness, find the Braille system difficult.

Initiation of plans for the publication of an abridged dictionary in Braille, now

being developed cooperatively with the American Printing House for the Blind, Louisville, Kentucky.

Launching of a magazine called "Light," published in inkprint, featuring personality sketches of the successful blind, and including a business directory listing the business and professional blind of the United States.

Nearly 10,000 copies of the Institute's Braille monthlies, "The Braille Mirror" and "March of Events," were circulated during 1933, while 214 copies of Braille books, covering works on journalism, salesmanship, insurance underwriting, fiction, history and other subjects, were circulated to the blind, or to libraries maintaining lending departments for the blind.

The Institute Trustees announce a budget for 1934 amounting to \$56,930, reflecting the activities and service to the blind which the Braille Institute should sponsor during the year.

Less than 15 percent of the 1934 budget is allotted for administration. This expense is already underwritten through substantial contributions given for the purpose. Therefore, every dollar contributed to the Institute during 1934 will be actually spent in service to the blind of some kind, whether or not the budget is fully balanced. This should, and does, place the institution in a very advantageous position in appealing to the public for funds. Seldom does the public have the opportunity of contributing money to a welfare organization with the assurance that every cent of its contributions will benefit those for whom they are intended.

Every cent in the budget can be spent constructively to the betterment of the blind. For this and other reasons the Trustees believe the budget is economically sound, and that through a sympathetic, intelligent appeal for contributions and through the sale of memberships, it can be balanced.

While expressing gratitude for an appreciable increase in memberships during the year, the Trustees urged all members to redouble their efforts in the endeavor to interest new friends in the work.

Our Own Who's Who

At the annual meeting of members of Braille Institute of America, Inc., held March 6, 1934, P. A. Be-Hanneseey and Franklin Lowney were elected to the Board of Trustees.

P. A. Be-Hanneseey was born in Syria

on March 14, 1879. In 1889 he came to



P. A. Be-Hanneseey

America and located in Chicago. For a number of years he was a lecturer on Chautauqua and lyceum circuits. During this time he became well known for his lecture entitled, "The Two Seas." Since retiring from the Chautauqua platform Mr. Be-Hanneseey has devoted his time to the art of interior decoration. His studio in Los Angeles is a credit to the community.

The October issue of "The Braille Mirror" and the January issue of "New Moon," both published for the blind by the Braille Institute, reprinted Mr. Be-Hanneseey's inspirational talk "The Two Seas," in Braille and Moon types, respectively. Many letters have been received from blind readers expressing appreciation of this story.

Mr. Be-Hanneseey is a member of Hollywood Athletic Club, Optimist, Hollywood Lions and Masonic Clubs.

Franklin Lowney, public relations counsel of Los Angeles, is widely known



Franklin Lowney

for his conspicuous public service as directing head of the NRA Speakers' Bureau for Southern California. He has addressed hundreds of meetings throughout the state in recent months in connection with the self-regulation of industry, in accord with the nation's New Deal of social planning.

As chairman of the Anti-Gangster Committee of the American Legion, Mr. Lowney has taken an active part in the formation of the Los Angeles Crime Commission, and is a member of the Governmental Affairs Committee of the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.

He is president of the Midtown Association of Los Angeles and a member of numerous civic and scientific bodies.

Certainly the cause of the blind has enlisted two more good friends, whose association with it will speed the Braille Institute on its way to greater success.

"The Wittiest Man in the Senate"

From His Well-Filled Memory, Blind Senator
Gore Prefers to Quote and Quip, Not Argue

(Digest from an article in "Collier's")

I SUPPOSE everyone knows that Senator Thomas P. Gore, of Oklahoma, is blind. He is the wittiest man in the Senate. The blind are notoriously cheerful, and if they have good minds, they are likely to be philosophical. They take a longer view of things than the average person.

What do you suppose is Senator Gore's greatest passion?

Books! He is one of the country's greatest frequenters of old book-stalls. He has a large collection of old books, mostly historical, and is constantly adding to it.

"Yes," he said, "you can discipline the memory if you have to.

Look at the blacksmith's right arm. It is two inches bigger round than his left arm because he's always using it." Then he added: "I always say, 'Bet on the handicapped horse.'"

The Oklahoma senator has been a handicapped horse for a long time. The sight of his right eye was destroyed when he was eight years old. And three years later his left eye was destroyed by a blow-gun that he had presented to a playmate. That was fifty-one years ago. He was at that time a page boy in the Mississippi Senate, and living in the home of Senator George, a famous member of the United States Senate from Mississippi. Five or six years later, a book about self-made Americans having been read to him, he conceived his ambition to be a member of the United States Senate.

When he was twenty-two he was graduated from the law department of Cumberland University in Tennessee. He moved to Texas in 1896 and to Oklahoma in 1901. He was elected to the United States Senate in 1907 for a short term and



again in 1909 and in 1914. He was then defeated for renomination in 1920 and returned to the Senate on March 4, 1931. If he had not been defeated in 1920 he would now be chairman of the most important committee of the Senate, the Finance Committee.

The gentleman from Oklahoma is more than a wit with a well filled mind and an historical sense. He has firm opinions. He went out of the Senate in 1920 for taking the unpopular side of an issue. He voted against the declaration of war in 1917. He voted against conscription, until after, as he explained, the his-

toric practice of calling for volunteers should be tried and volunteers exhausted. He voted against the bill giving Mr. Hoover authority to fix the price of farm products and believes that farm troubles today are due to forcing the farmers to sell at fixed prices while everybody else was allowed to profiteer. He voted against the government's taking over the railroads. For those votes he was stamped as anti-war, or anti-Wilson, and defeated. Those votes tell how his mind works.

There's one thing he boasts of: "I never voted a dollar out of the United States Treasury into anybody else's pocket. No, I'll take that back. I voted for a pension to the widow of the doctor who discovered that yellow fever was caused by the mosquito, and died discovering it. That's the only instance." You see he is of different stuff from the senators who cower before the veterans' lobby.

When he speaks in the Senate, he always has a piece of paper in his right hand, waves it about as he gesticulates, appears to look at it. He reels off figure

after figure in the millions or the billions down to the last unit. He recites date after date. You would swear that he is referring to notes. But of course he can't be.

"It's a mannerism," he says. "I ought to stop it. I have the bill I am discussing in my pocket and take it out in my hand."

* * *

The most oddly assorted pair from any one state in the Senate are the two from Oklahoma, Thomas P. Gore and Elmer Thomas. While Mr. Gore is blithely remarking, "If we must inflate the currency, why don't we license all the counterfeits? That would get the money into the hands of the people," his colleague, Mr. Thomas, is shouting triumphantly that his inflation bill "will take \$200,000,000,000 from the hands of those who have it, including the bank depositors, and give it to the debtors," which—even on his showing—wouldn't get the money into the hands of the people.

The two senators not only differ about inflation or non-inflation but they differ in the temper they show when they talk about money. Mr. Gore is good-humored and witty when he talks about money. He is sure he is right and does not seem to care whether he makes any converts or not.

Mr. Thomas is always angry, angry as the prophet Jeremiah, or whoever was the worst-tempered of the Old Testament prophets. He is full of threats, like his threat to take all the bank deposits away from the depositors and give them to someone else.

I should say, looking at him, that Mr. Thomas was just old enough to take his first active interest in politics in 1896, when Bryan was roaring about the land in favor of inflation and when "Coin" Harvey had written the last word on money. Mr. Thomas got his ideas on currency them.

Mr. Gore remarks—but not apropos of his colleague, for that wouldn't be according to Hoyle—but generally, "The worst monomania is the money mania. Never argue with anyone about money. If he wants to talk about it he already knows all about it. He wouldn't want to talk about it if he didn't."

Mr. Gore won't argue with anyone about money. He will emit a witticism about it. He will brilliantly review for the Senate the history of this nation's and other nations' experiences with inflation, beginning with England in the seventeenth century and quoting freely from the famous historians, telling how Macaulay in chapter twenty-one remarks that the only mistake made by the English statesmen who proposed to substitute a nine-pence shilling for a twelve-pence shilling was in thinking that by making a yardstick twenty-seven inches instead of thirty-six inches long they were going to increase the size of England.

I hope I quote this correctly. Mr. Gore, having no recourse but his memory, quotes with astonishing freedom and accuracy, while I, who might look it up in Macaulay, don't and let near enough do. Then with a witticism or two of his own, for he is the wittiest man in the Senate, he lets the money mania go its way. For being widely read in history and something of a philosopher to boot, he knows that men never learn from experience and that every generation, in this country at least, has to try inflation or, short of that, to debate it fiercely. We are just having another attack.

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Getting A Kick Out of Your ABC's

Although Blind at 70, "Bill Smith" Finds
There's a Big Thrill in the Alphabet



TALK about happiness being found in the little things of life, I got a letter the other day from "Bill

Smith," blind at seventy. "Bill" has been a big shot, and enjoyed about all the unusual and expensive things. Then all of a sudden he loses his money and his sight, and was on my list, to get our new "Moon" magazine as soon as some fellow sent three dollars for "Light."

Well, business got a half point on the up-and-up, and "Bill's" turn came, and he got a magazine that he could learn to read—this "Moon" alphabet is a lot easier than Braille, and a grand thing for the sightless old people.

I'll let you read his letter:

"It's too late for an old bird like me to learn such new tricks as Braille," he wrote back, "so when I got the magazine, and felt the old familiar ABC's under my fingers, and found I could read it, I got a bigger thrill than I've had for many a day. Next to that, was the thought of the men and women, before my time, who had made it possible for me, in a fix I never thought to get into, and the good people who go out of their way to help the last leaf on the tree."

My list of blind readers waiting for our magazines is still plenty big, so if you can spare three dollars for "Light," I'll send a raised letter magazine to some blind pal. It will sure be a real New Deal.

Your pal,

The Subscription Man

Seen With Half an Eye

Some men smile in the evening,
Some men smile at dawn,
But the man worth while
Is the man who can smile
When his two front teeth are gone.

* * *

Your average American has a simple method for telling high-class music from trash. If the musician's name looks like a misprint it's high-class.

* * *

"Ah, Watson," commented the prospective Sherlock, sipping his whiskey and soda, "I see you have changed your underwear."

"Marvelous, Holmes—but how'd you know?"
"Well, Watson, you've forgotten to put your trousers on."

* * *

An educated man has been defined as one who keeps his seventh grade son from thinking him a dumbbell.

* * *

"You're very interested in that stuffed bird," said the ornithologist.

"Yes," said the aviation expert. "I think its steering gear infringes one of my patents."

* * *

The more you try to explain civilization, the more respect you have for the ancients who blamed everything on the planets.

"What is your daughter working for at college—an M.A.?"

"No, an M-R-S."

* * *

"Darling, will you marry me?"

"Have you seen Mother?"

"Yes, but I still love you."

* * *

The good old days were those when a luxury didn't become a necessity just because you happened to want it.

* * *

"Washing clothes will kill your wife; why not let this machine do it instead?"

"That's an idea."

* * *

A man convinced against his will
Is of the same opinion still;
But a woman convinced against her will
Is not convinced and is not still.

* * *

The car to watch is the car behind the car in front of you.

* * *

A woman is as old as she looks, but a man isn't old until he stops looking.

* * *

"She was a suicide blonde."

"What do you mean?"

"Dyed by her own hands."

* * *

I always fly

Into a rage

When some dame chortles:

"Be your age."

Now It's Dunn Bill H. R. No. 8520

**So Get Behind This Wise Law, Slightly Changed,
Which Will Place 20,000 Blind in News-Stands**

WORKERS for the blind who are supporting the Dunn bill, in Congress, permitting news-stands to be operated by the blind in Federal buildings, are asked to note that this measure has been somewhat modified, and a new bill introduced by Congressman Matthew A. Dunn, of Pennsylvania.

The new Dunn bill is H. R. No. 8520. The first Dunn bill was H. R. No. 5694, and is thereby supplanted.

On December 27, a conference of workers for the blind met in New York to discuss the original Dunn bill, and if necessary, modify it in ways acceptable to all, and giving full protection to blind licensees. A substitute bill was agreed upon, and March 7 Congressman Dunn introduced H. R. No. 8520, which was referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads, Hon. James Mead, chairman. A public hearing on this bill is expected soon.

The new bill is one on which the majority of representative agencies for the blind, and the blind themselves, agree will meet the need.

The Braille Institute of America urges its friends, and all friends of the blind, to get solidly behind H. R. No. 8520, and support it by writing their representatives in both houses of Congress.

As previously reported in "Light" (October-December 1933), this bill creates a Bureau of Welfare for the Blind, as part of the Postoffice Department, and licenses blind persons to operate news-stands in Federal buildings over the country. With postoffices, Army and Navy and other buildings, probably 10,000 desirable stands could be provided. It will encourage similar action by states, counties and cities, making about 10,000 more stands available. This will go far toward solving the most pressing economic problem of the blind.

President Roosevelt is declared in sympathy with the bill, as is Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins. Similar bills in-

troduced in the past have failed of passage for technical reasons, but it is felt that now the legislation is right, and worthy, and deserving of support by all who would befriend the blind.

To Do As Others

"Whatever may be the impediments in our course," said William Artman and L. H. Hall, who were blind book compilers of two generations ago, "if we have the assurance that others, under the same handicap, have surmounted it, and arrived in triumph at the goal to which we aspire, the bugbear of impossibility is removed, and the timid heart, gathering courage, moves forward, cheered by the waymarks of predecessors. This is more especially true of the blind than any other class of mankind."

Blindness was often an advantage to the bard of old, for he was the memorizer and reciter of religious poetry, and some religions, as the Druid, forbade the use of writing in keeping the records. So the blind bard's cultivated memory stood him in good stead.

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